MAD RACCOONS

BY CATHY HILL

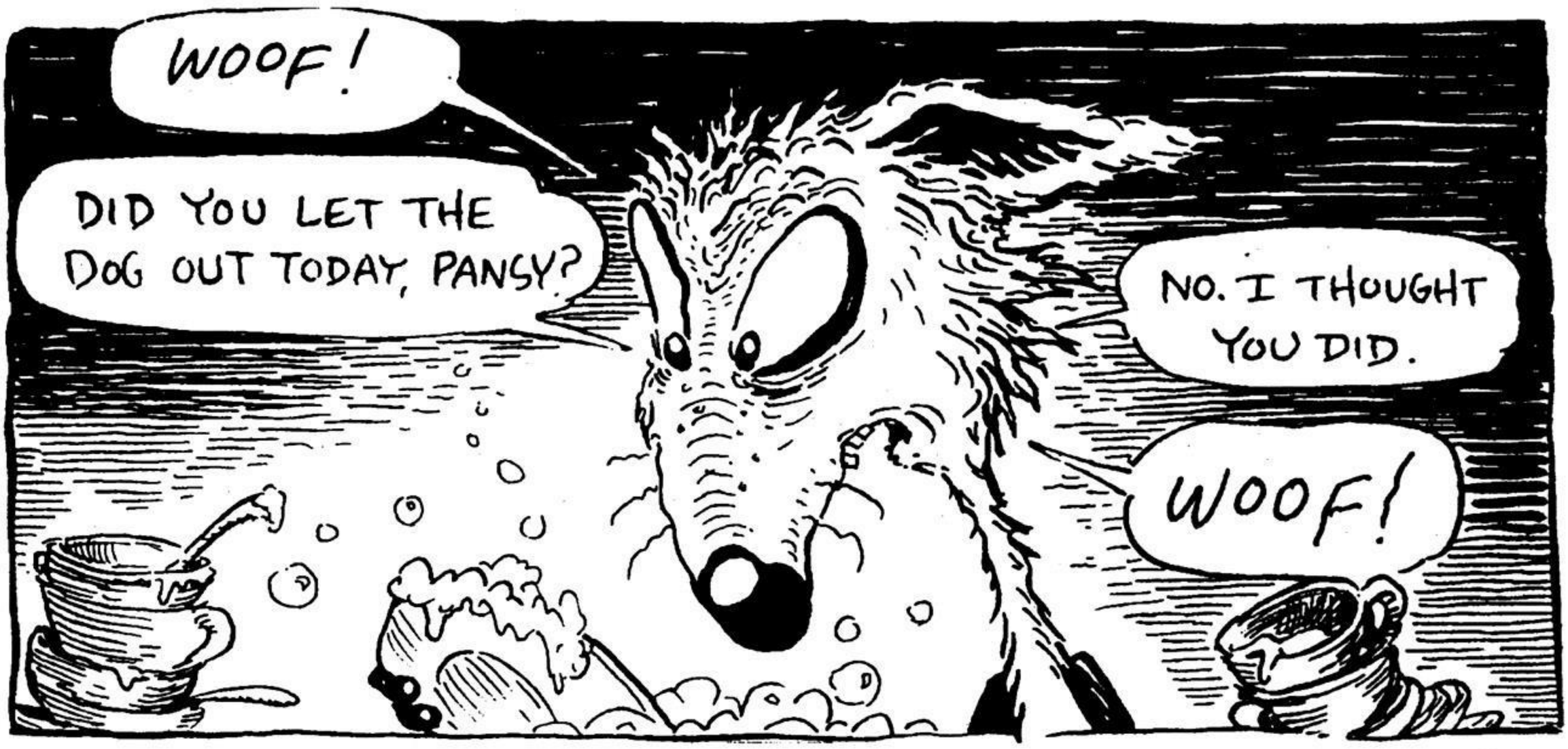
No. 5
THE ANGST OF THE ARTIST

MU Press presents the world of Cathy Hill's Mad Raccoons

Virgil's Portrait.....1
Raccoons In Art.....5
How To Animate A Raccoon.....6
The Making Of The Raccoons' Movie.....8
Uncle Erf: Woover's Day Out.....9
Virgil's Portrait Completed.....20
Virgil's Journal.....21

Written and Illustrated
by Cathy Hill

Published by Edd Vick
Edited by Chuck Melville



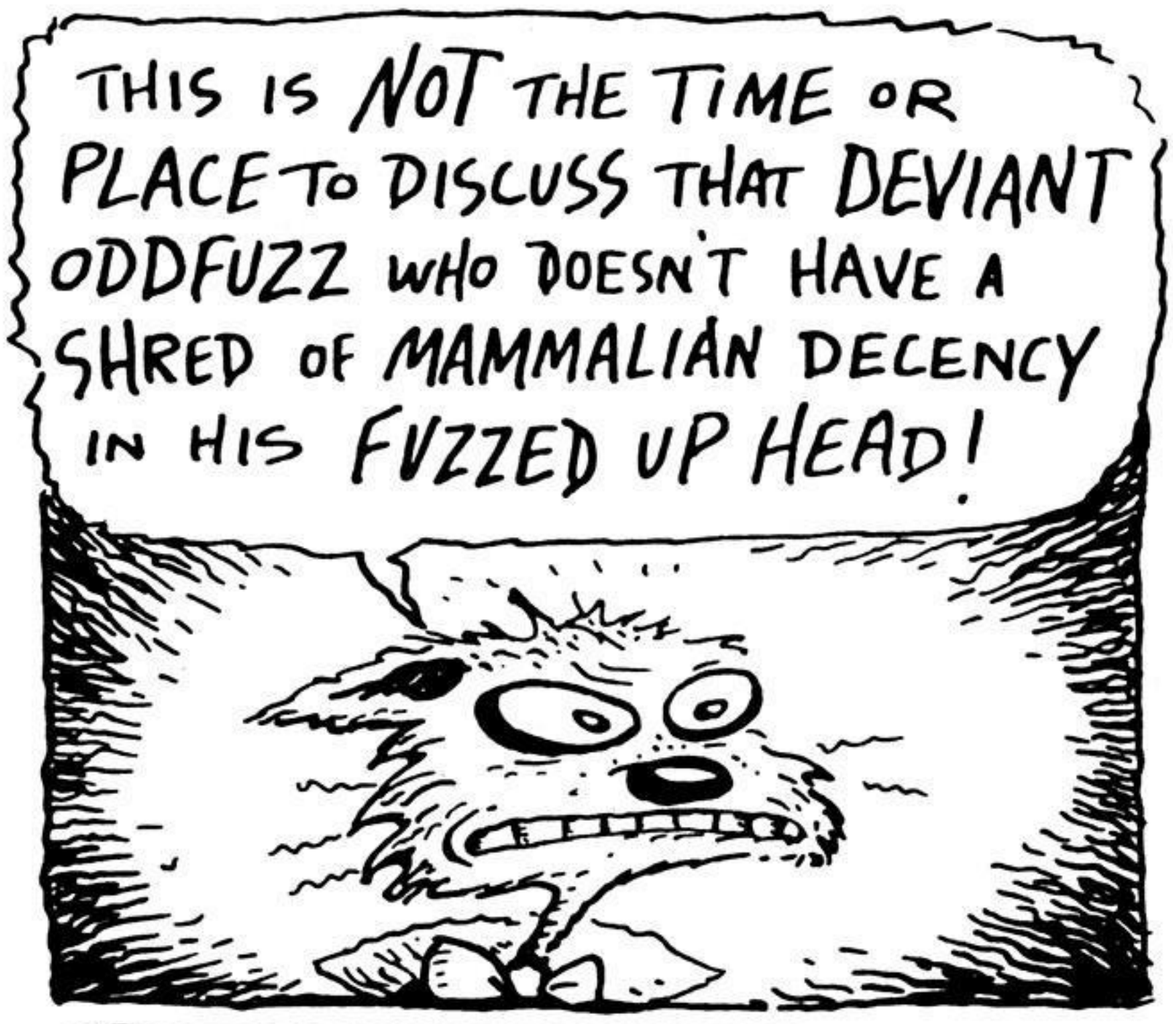
MAD RACCOONS 5 August 1995. Published by MU PRESS, 5014-D Roosevelt Way NE, Seattle, WA 98105. (E.Vick1@genie.geis.com)

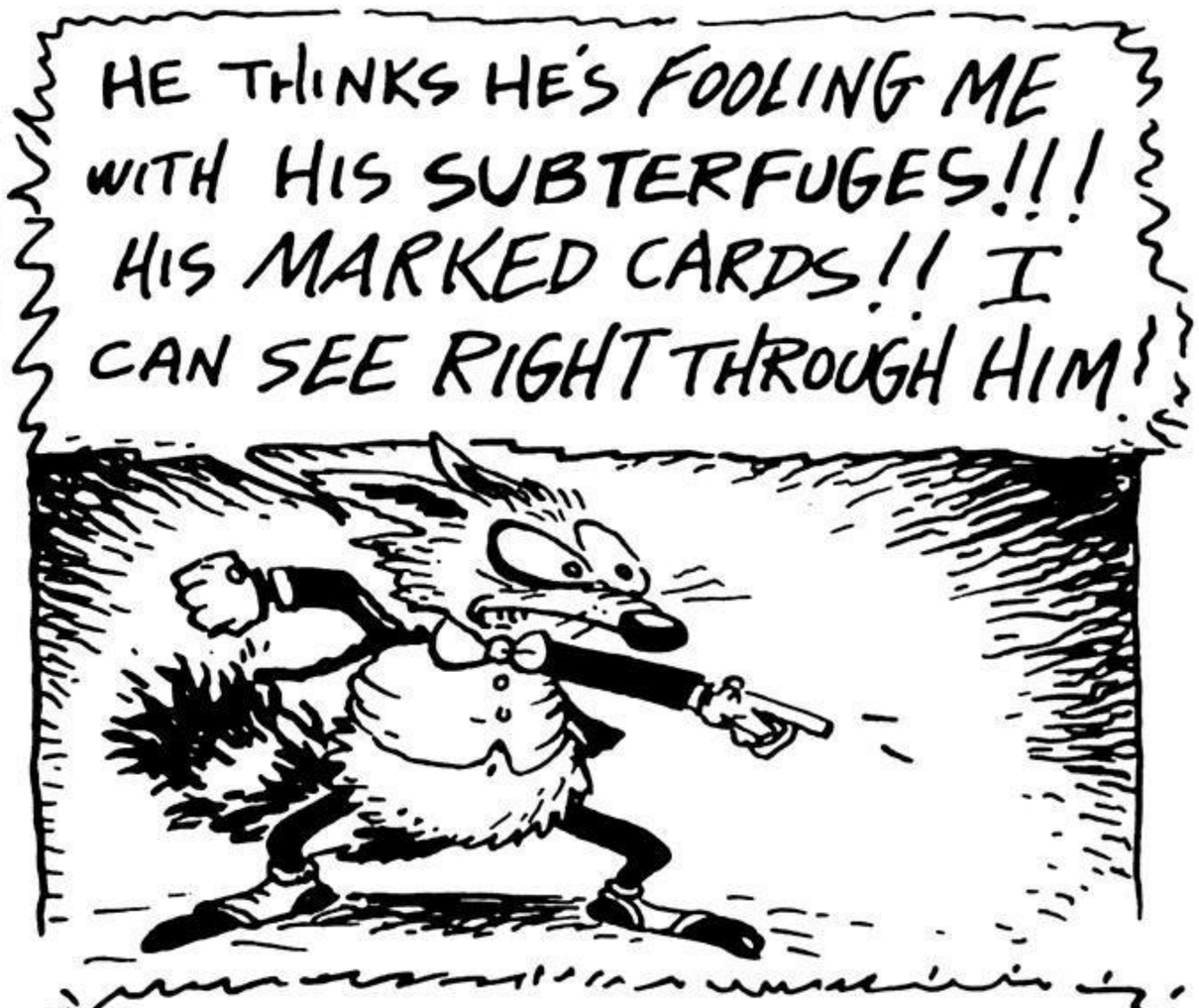
Entire contents ©1995 Cathy Hill All rights reserved. No material herein may be copied or reproduced in any manner whatsoever without prior consent of the creator (excepting purposes of review). This is a work of fiction. Any similarity between names, characters, and/or persons herein and any persons living or dead is purely coincidental. Down, Woover!!

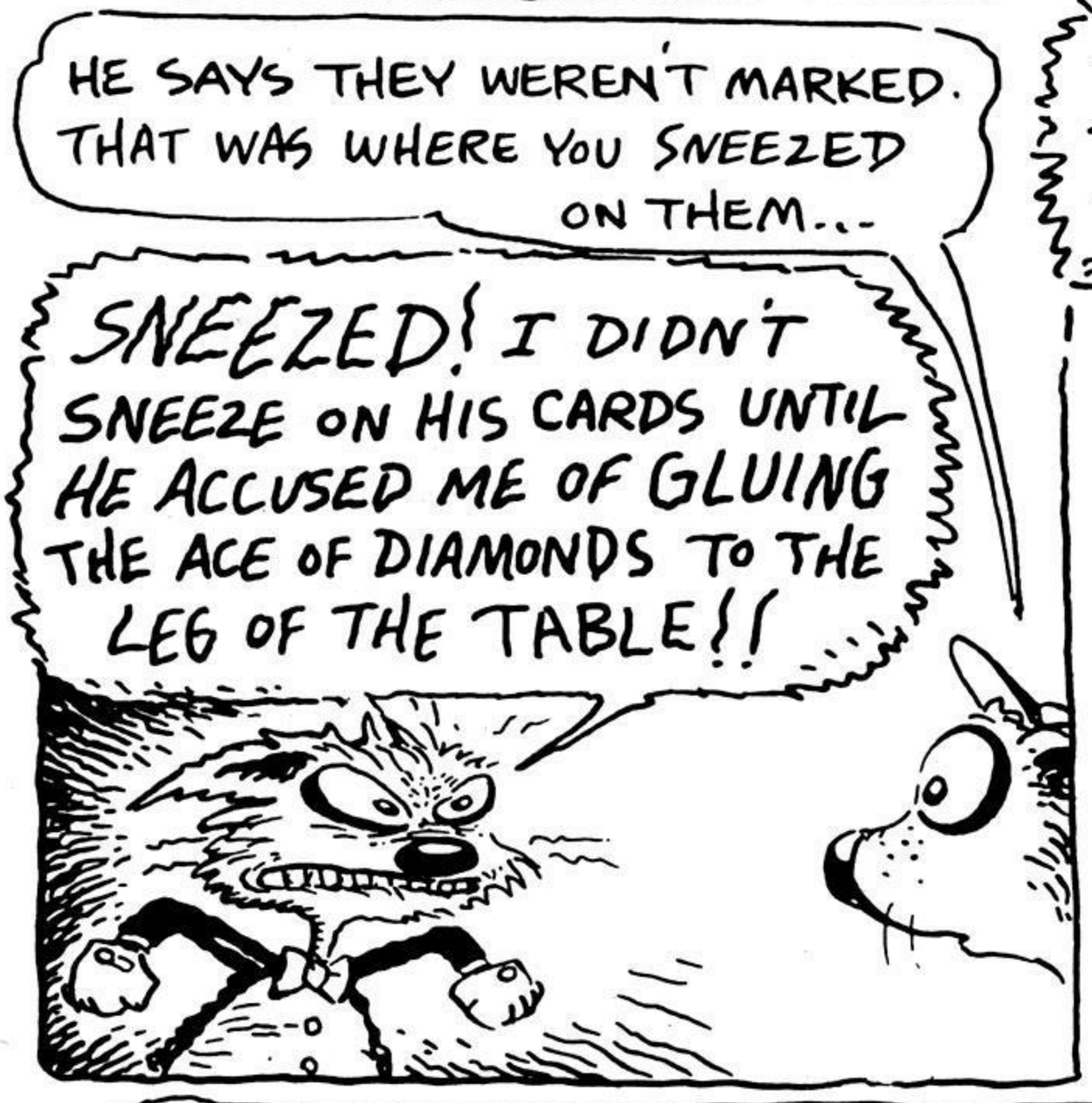
First Printing. MU PUB #261

VIRGIL'S PORTRAIT
IS THAT THE POSE YOU WANT FOR YOUR PORTRAIT, VIRGIL?
YES. IT HAS CLASS AND DIGNITY.
©CATHY HILL 1995
IT'S SO FORMAL. IT MIGHT BE HARD TO HOLD FOR A LONG TIME. WHY DON'T YOU SIT DOWN?
I WANT IT BOLD AND DASHING WITH JUST A TOUCH OF JOYOUSNESS... REMINISCENT OF THE HEROIC DEPICTIONS BY RUBENS.
I WANT THIS PORTRAIT TO EMBODY THE ETHEREAL, ELUSIVE, TRANSCENDENT RACCOON SPIRIT....
I'M AFRAID YOU'RE GOING TO BE HARD TO PLEASE, VIRGIL.
OH, NO... DO YOUR BEST, MYRLIE. I KNOW IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO CATCH ALL THE SUBLETIES IN MERE PAINT.

OKAY. LET ME MAKE A ROUGH SKETCH FIRST.
NOT ROUGH, NOT ROUGH! REFINED!
OKAY, A REFINED SKETCH.
YES. KEEP THAT IN MIND. REFINED! REFINED IS THE ESSENCE OF THIS WORK!
RE-FINED, UNCLE VIRGIL? IS THAT LIKE GETTING ANOTHER $50 FINE LIKE YOU HAD TO PAY YESTERDAY?
ABSOLUTELY NOT!!
WHAT $50 FINE DID YOU HAVE TO PAY?
WHAT?!
HE AND COUSIN ODDFUZZ WERE BEATING EACH OTHER UP AT THE POKER TABLE AND EATING THE JACK OF SPADES AND THE EIGHT OF CLUBS, AND NOW THEY SAY THEY'RE ENEMIES FOR LIFE!
I MERELY CHEWED OFF THE MARKED CORNER OF HIS MARKED CARDS! HE'S THE ONE WHO EIGHT THE CLUBS!
WEREN'T YOU ENEMIES FOR LIFE A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO AND MADE UP?
THEY WERE ONLY ENEMIES FOR LIFE FOR TWO WEEKS...
I THINK THEY'VE BEEN ENEMIES FOR LIFE FOR TWO WEEKS A LOT...

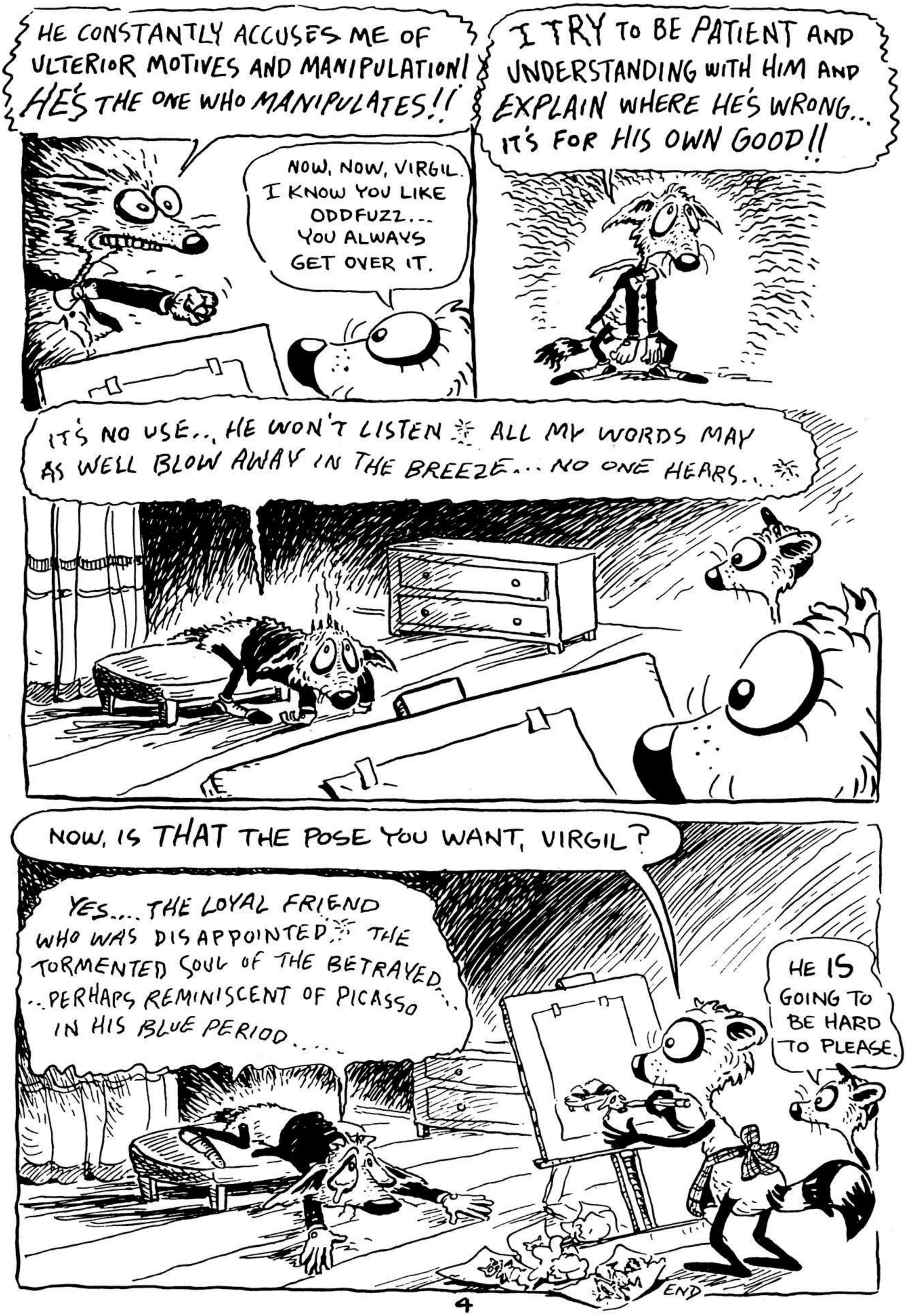

THIS IS NOT THE TIME OR PLACE TO DISCUSS THAT DEVIANT ODDFUZZ WHO DOESN'T HAVE A SHRED OF MAMMALIAN DECENCY IN HIS FUZZED UP HEAD!


HE THINKS HE'S FOOLING ME WITH HIS SUBTERFUGES!!! HIS MARKED CARDS!! I CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH HIM!


HE SAYS THEY WEREN'T MARKED. THAT WAS WHERE YOU SNEEZED ON THEM...
SNEEZED! I DIDN'T SNEEZE ON HIS CARDS UNTIL HE ACCUSED ME OF GLUING THE ACE OF DIAMONDS TO THE LEG OF THE TABLE!!

I'VE TRIED TO BE FAIR, BUT THERE'S NO RESPECT! HE CAN'T DO THAT TO ME! I WON'T TAKE IT!!

IS THAT THE POSE YOU WANT NOW, VIRGIL?
YES! THE FIGHTING, UNDAUNTED, FIERCE, NAKED SPIRIT! COMMANDO RACCOON!!!


HE CONSTANTLY ACCUSES ME OF ULTERIOR MOTIVES AND MANIPULATION! HE'S THE ONE WHO MANIPULATES!!
NOW, NOW, VIRGIL. I KNOW YOU LIKE ODDFUZZ... YOU ALWAYS GET OVER IT.
I TRY TO BE PATIENT AND UNDERSTANDING WITH HIM AND EXPLAIN WHERE HE'S WRONG... IT'S FOR HIS OWN GOOD!!
IT'S NO USE... HE WON'T LISTEN ALL MY WORDS MAY AS WELL BLOW AWAY IN THE BREEZE... NO ONE HEARS...
NOW, IS THAT THE POSE YOU WANT, VIRGIL?
YES.... THE LOYAL FRIEND WHO WAS DISAPPOINTED THE TORMENTED SOUL OF THE BETRAYED... PERHAPS REMINISCENT OF PICASSO IN HIS BLUE PERIOD....
HE IS GOING TO BE HARD TO PLEASE.
END

Raccoons in Art

Raccoons have been an inspiration to great artists for many centuries. Images of raccoons appear in numerous masterpieces such as this Greek sculpture, The Raccoön Group.

"RACCOÖN AND HIS SONS"

ANIMATION DEPT.

HOW TO ANIMATE A RACCOON

ANIMATION FILMS ARE MADE UP OF MANY DRAWINGS SO YOU MUST LEARN TO DRAW YOUR RACCOON WELL BEFORE STARTING.

THE WALK

① LEFT FOOT CONTACTS THE GROUND.

② SINKS INTO RECOIL POSITION.

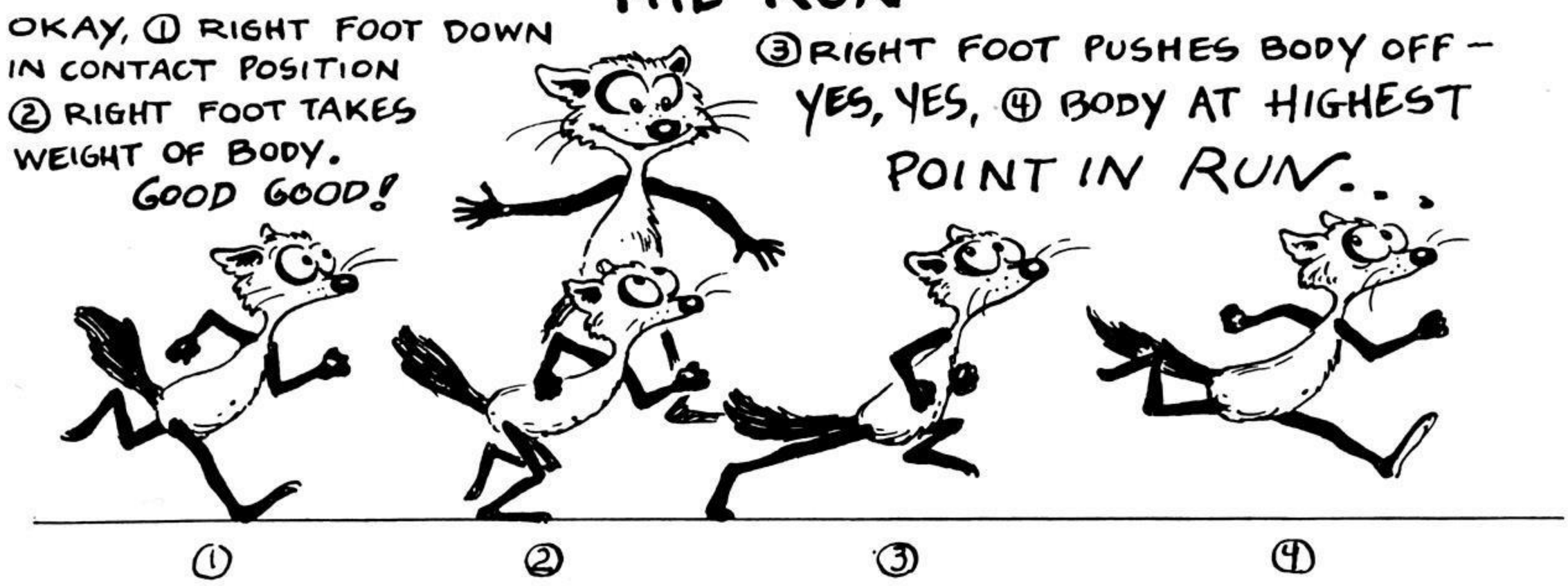
③ RIGHT FOOT LIFTS STARTS COMING THRU FOR STEP.

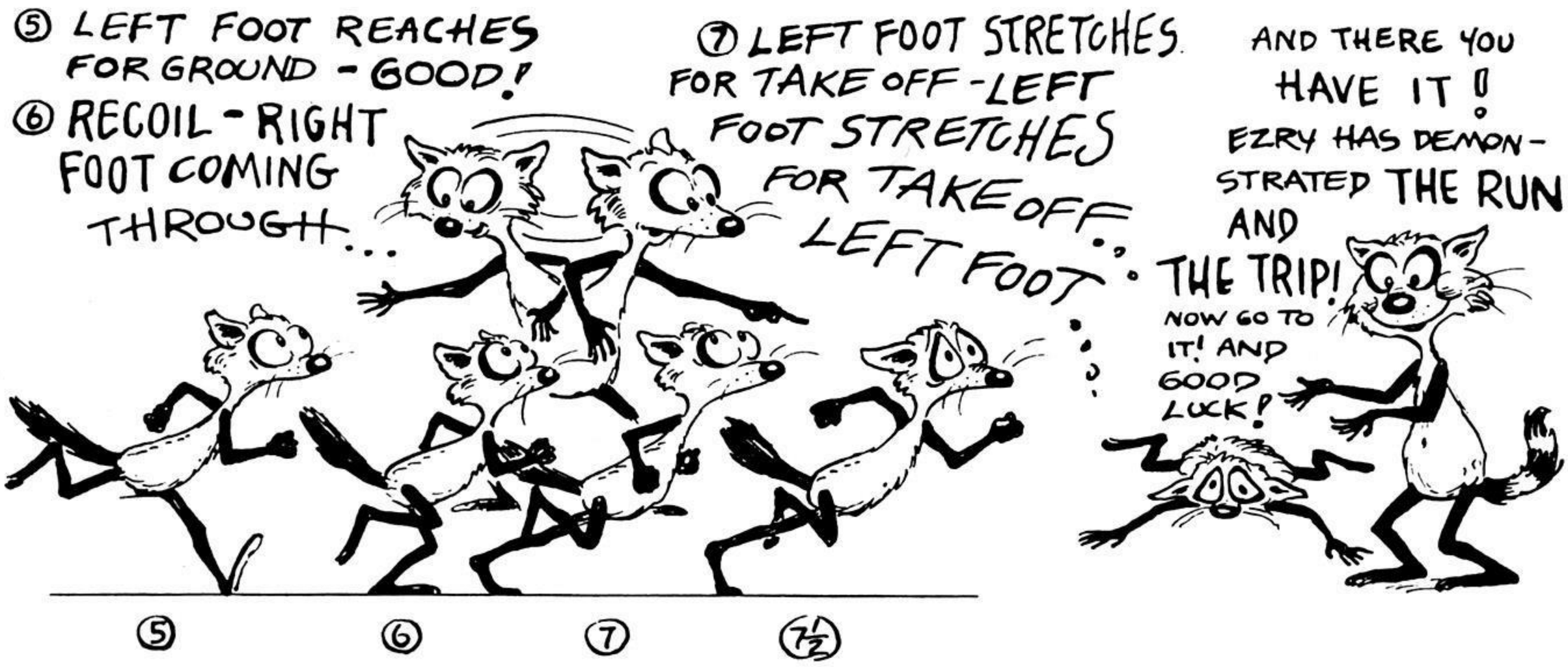
④ HIGH POINT IN STEP RIGHT FOOT RAISED.

NEVER MIND, NEVER MIND. EZRY DEMONSTRATED THE SLIP BEAUTIFULLY.

NOW THIS NEXT ONE IS THE RUN AND YOU'LL WANT TO COMPARE THE ACTION AND THE STRETCH.

THE RUN

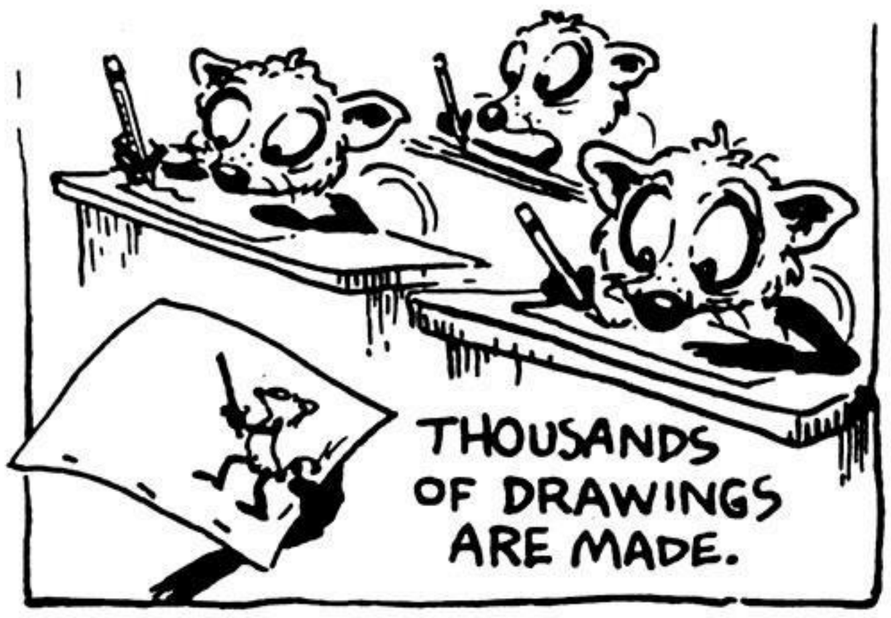

OKAY, ① RIGHT FOOT DOWN IN CONTACT POSITION
② RIGHT FOOT TAKES WEIGHT OF BODY.
GOOD GOOD!
③ RIGHT FOOT PUSHES BODY OFF – YES, YES, ④ BODY AT HIGHEST POINT IN RUN...
①
②
③
④


⑤ LEFT FOOT REACHES FOR GROUND – GOOD!
⑥ RECOIL – RIGHT FOOT COMING THROUGH...
⑦ LEFT FOOT STRETCHES FOR TAKE OFF – LEFT FOOT STRETCHES FOR TAKE OFF... LEFT FOOT...
AND THERE YOU HAVE IT! EZRY HAS DEMONSTRATED THE RUN AND THE TRIP! NOW GO TO IT! AND GOOD LUCK!
⑤
⑥
⑦
⑦½

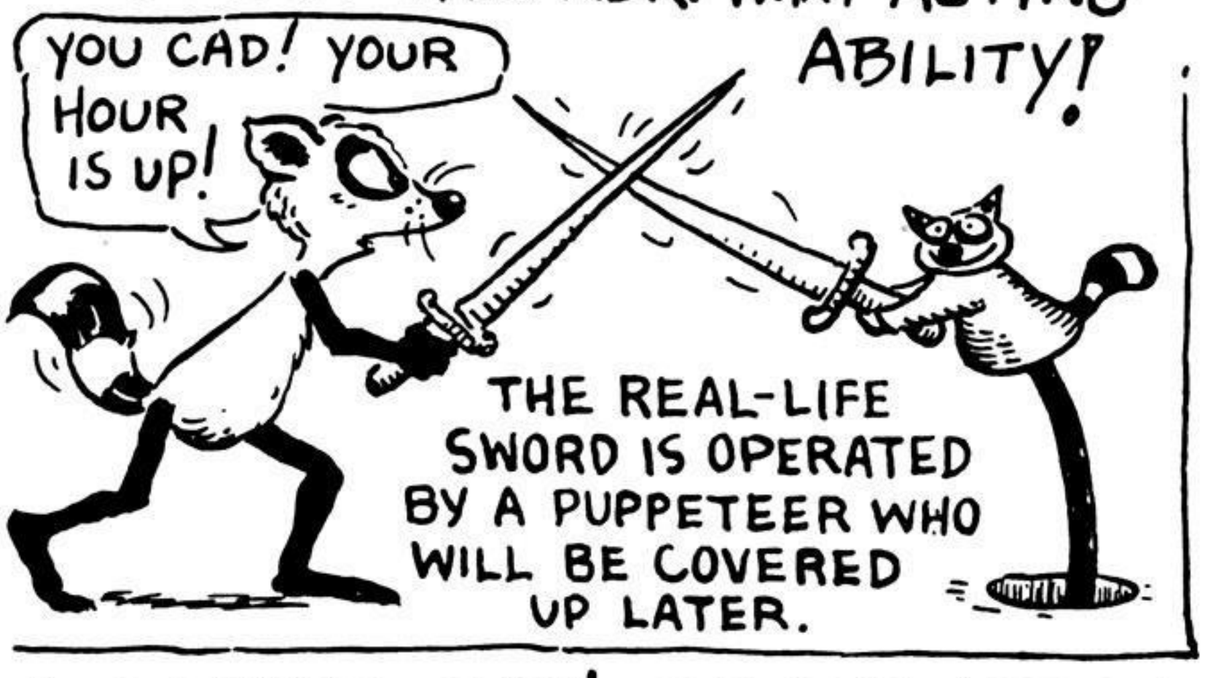
The Making of THE RACCOONS' MOVIE

THE *RACCOONS' MOVIE* IS A **LANDMARK** FILM IN THE HISTORY OF MOVIES - AN **EXTRAVAGANZA** COMBINING **LIVE-ACTION** RACCOONS WITH **ANIMATED** RACCOONS.

HERE, THE ANIMATORS FEVERISHLY WORK NIGHT AND DAY TO FINISH THE DRAWINGS OF A RACCOON IN A SWORD FIGHT.

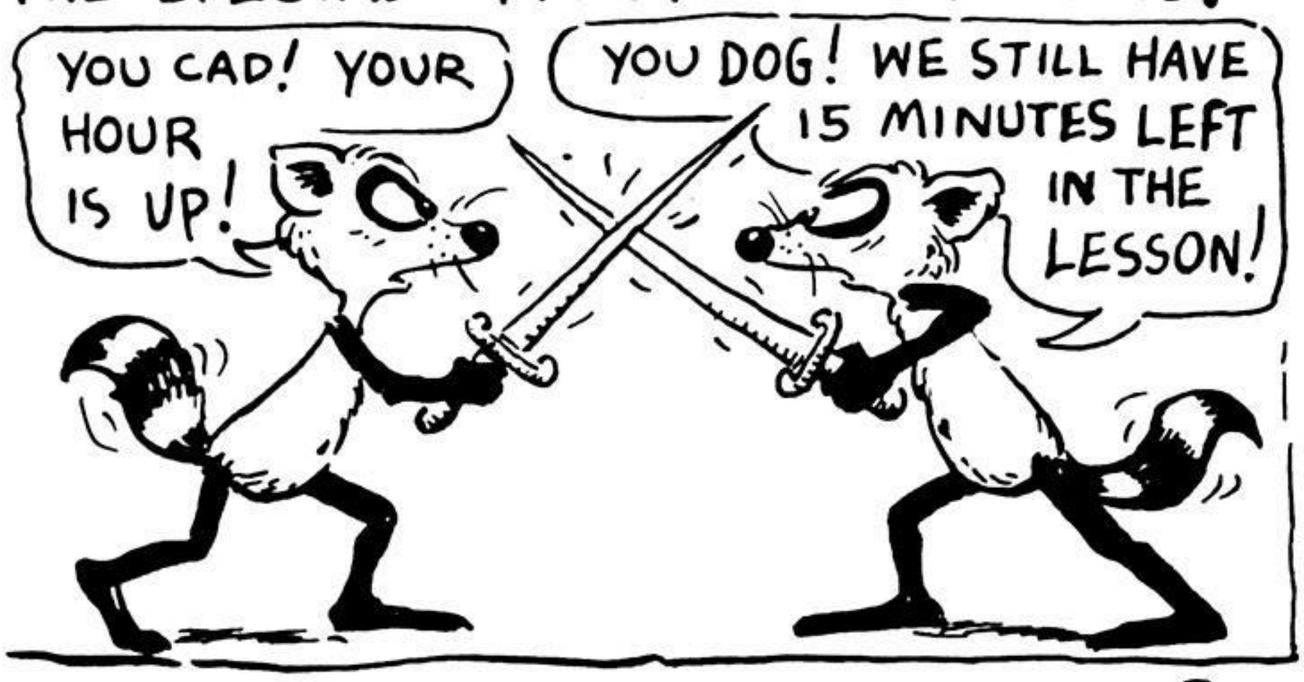


NOW, YOU SEE THE DUEL SCENE BEING SHOT WITH THE LIVE-ACTION RACCOON. HE HAS TO **IMAGINE** THAT HE IS DUELING WITH A PARTNER. WHAT ACTING ABILITY!



HERE ARE THE WRITERS MAKING LAST MINUTE CHANGES IN THE SCRIPT. SOME OF THE ANIMATION WILL HAVE TO BE REDONE.

AND THERE IT **IS**! THE LIVE-ACTION AND ANIMATION **TOGETHER** ON THE SCREEN! AND ISN'T IT **INCREDIBLE**? THE SPECIAL EFFECTS ARE **DAZZLING**!



THIS WILL BE A **SWASHBUCKLING** NEW RACCOON MOVIE WITH ALL THE *MAGIC* OF THE SILVER SCREEN. DON'T MISS IT!

THIS IS VIRGIL SAYING GOODBYE AND I'LL SEE YOU AT THE MOVIES ♪.

UNCLE ERF "WOOVER'S DAY OUT"

ERF! ARE YOU GOING TO HELP ME WITH THE DISHES OR DO I HAVE TO DO IT ALL??

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT, PANSY!....

© G. HILL '95

FURLEY, YOU GET IN HERE AND HELP TOO!

I WANNA GO SWIMMING!

I WANNA GO SWIMMING!

YOU WENT SWIMMING YESTERDAY.

WOOF!

WHAT'S THE MATTER WOOVER?

YOURE NOT GOING SWIMMING, FURLEY, AND THAT'S FINAL!

WOOF!

DID YOU LET THE DOG OUT TODAY, PANSY?

NO. I THOUGHT YOU DID.

WOOF!

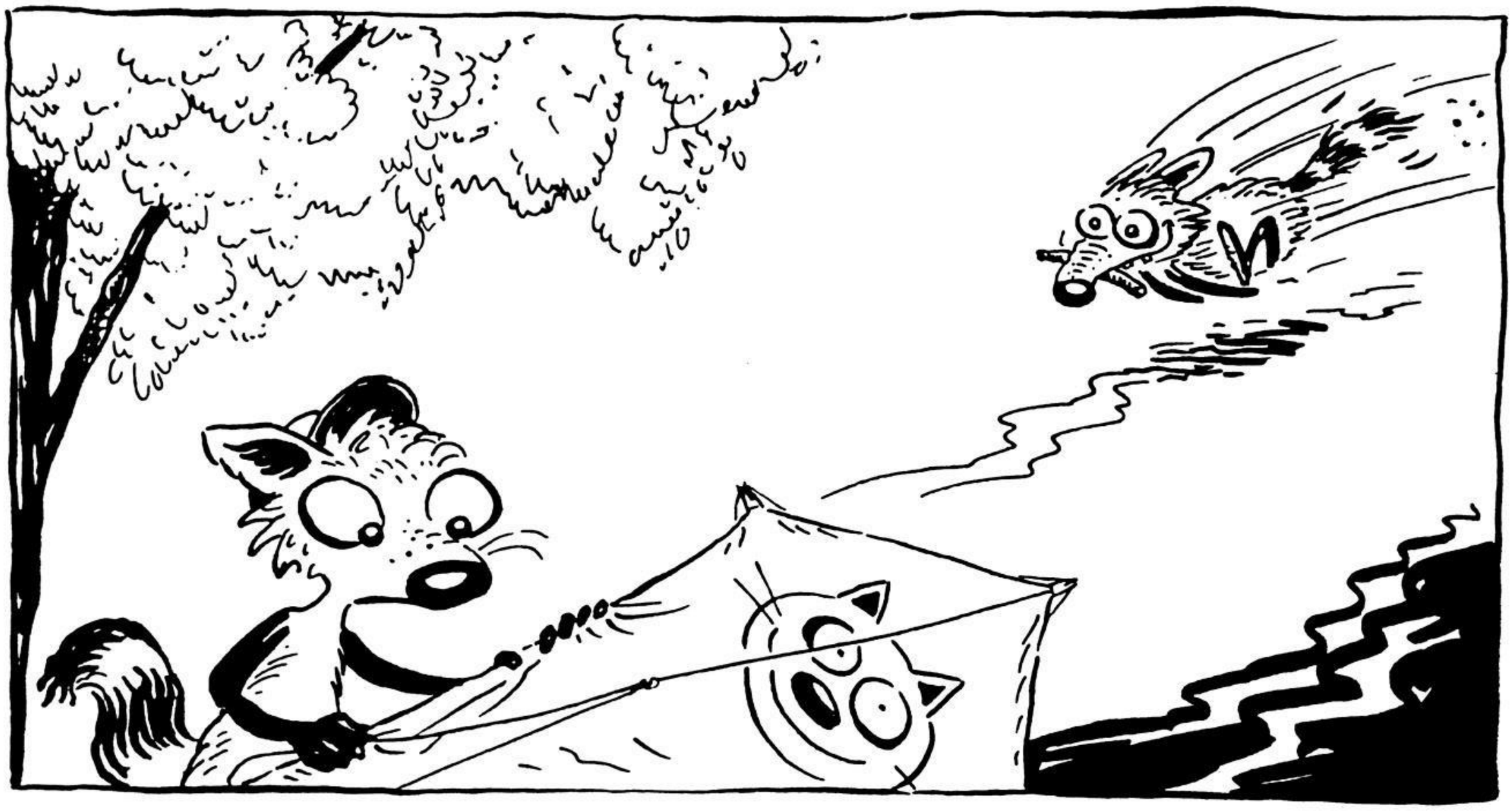
WELL, SOMEBODY BETTER! HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN?
ROOF!

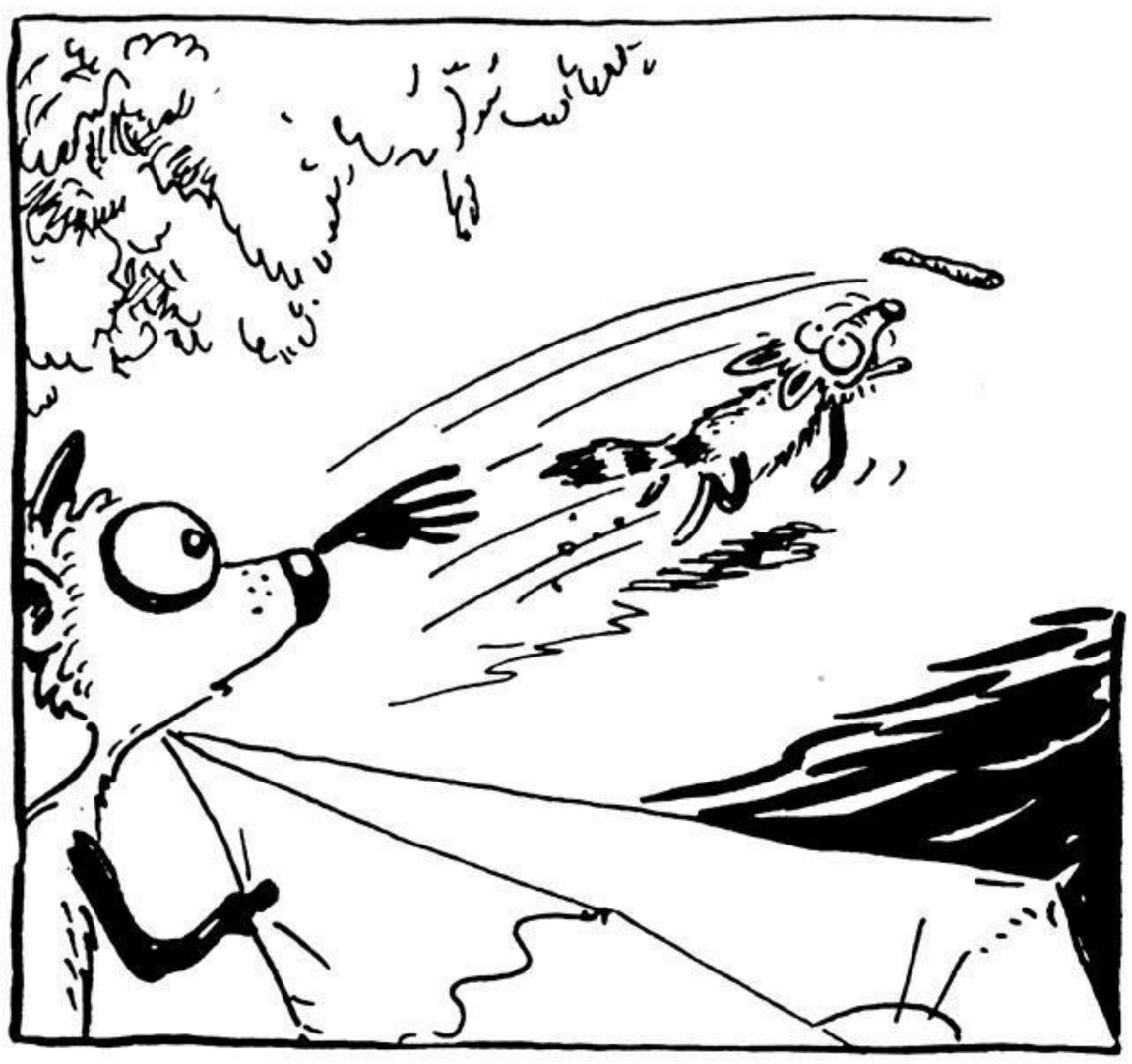
OPEN THE DOOR AND LET HIM OUT, ERF, BEFORE HE MAKES A MESS!
OK, GO ON, WOOVER! GO ON OUT BOY!

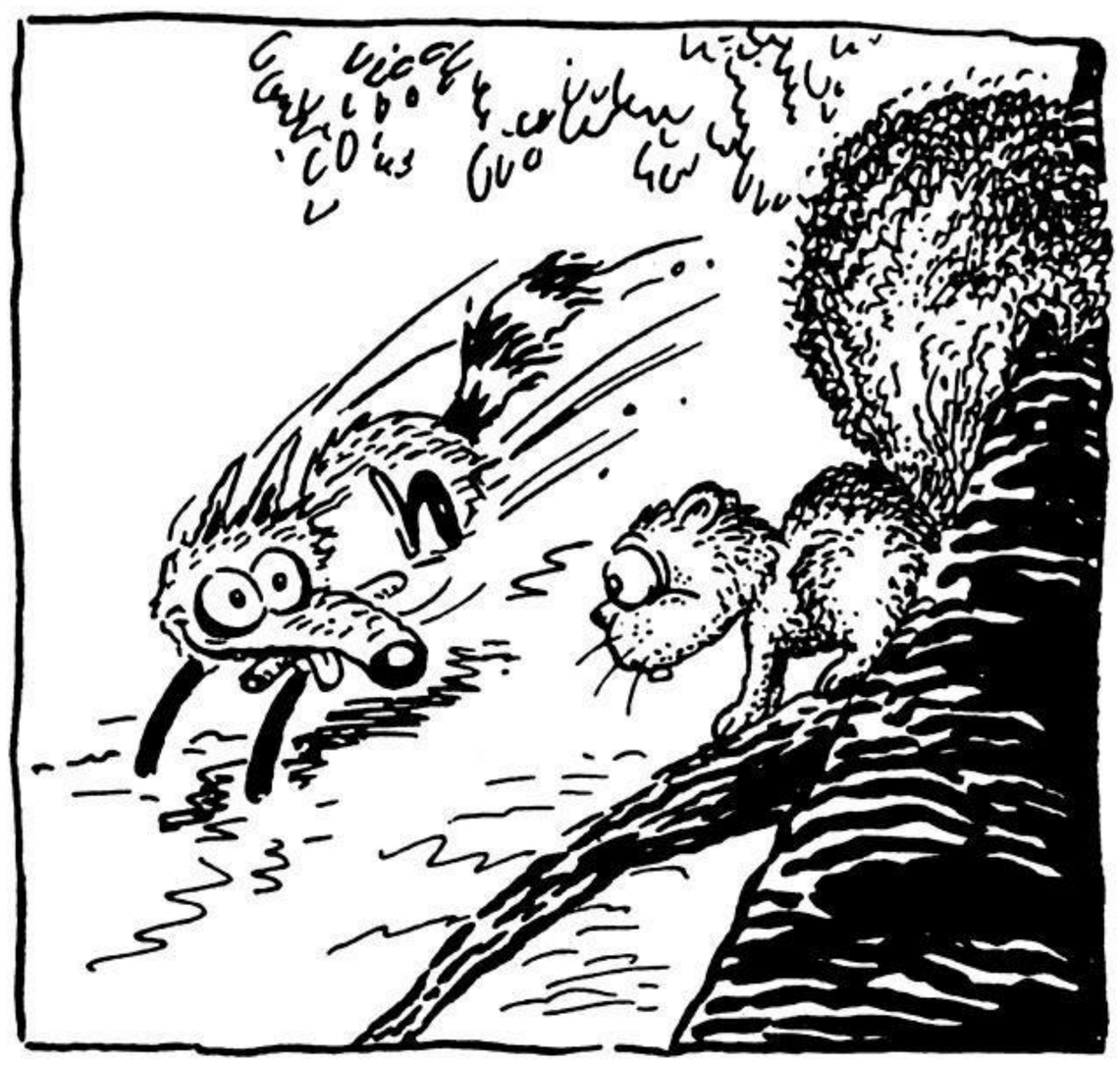
WOOF!!

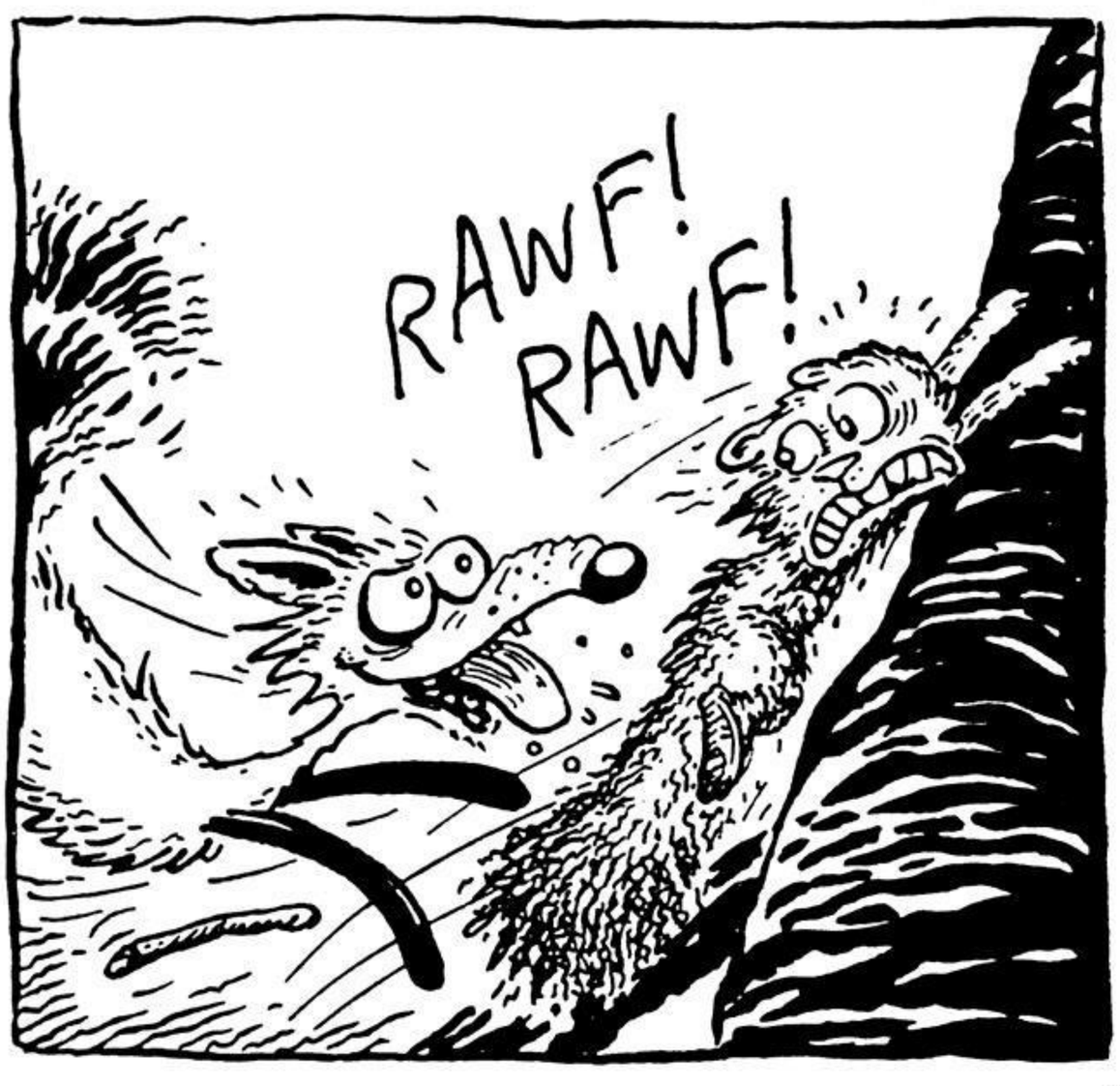
RUFF! ROOF!

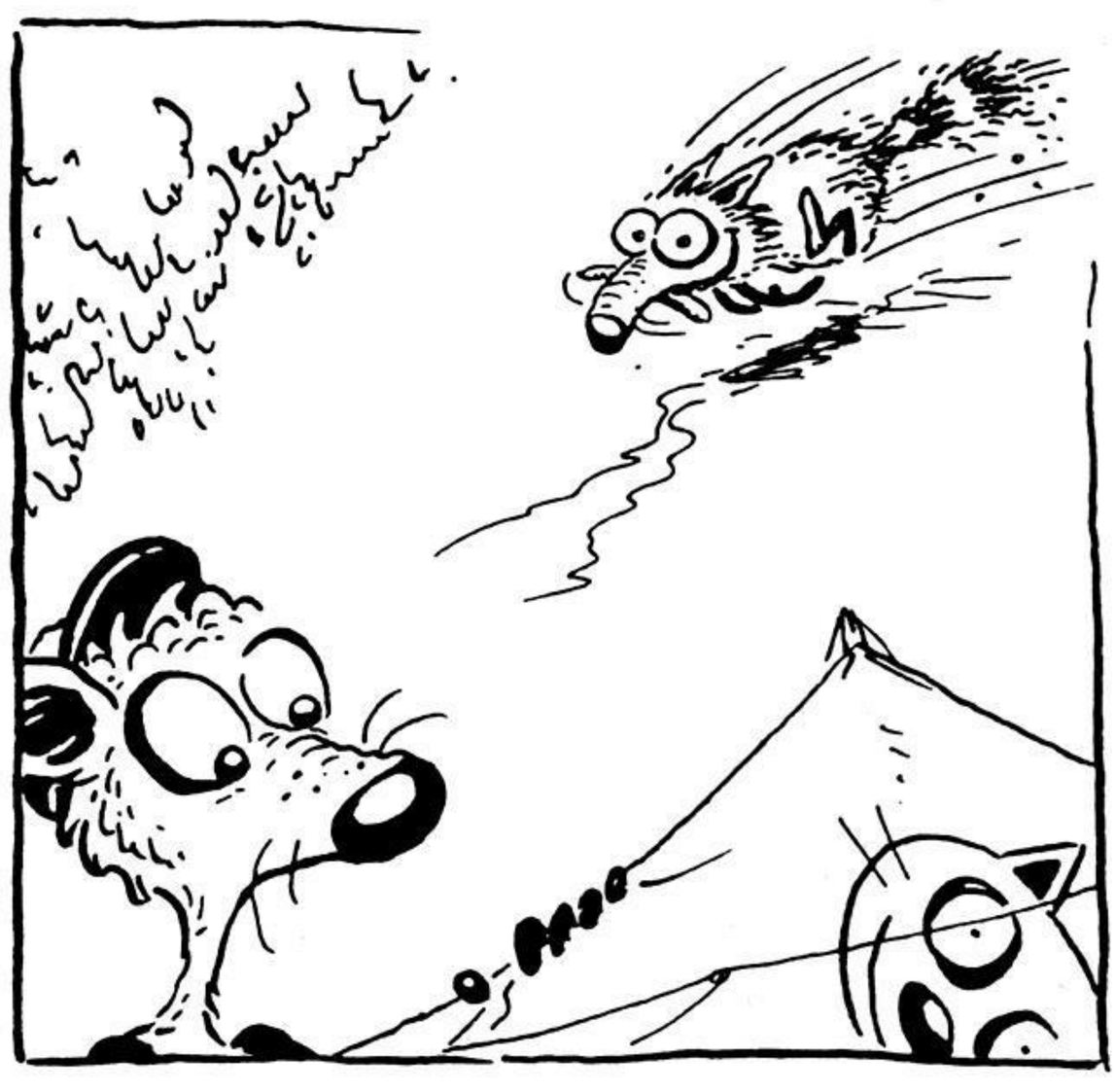
RUMPH!
RUFF!
SLURP! SHULRP!
HI WOOVER! AAAAKK!
DOWN BOY! OK, HERE, FETCH!
RUFF!

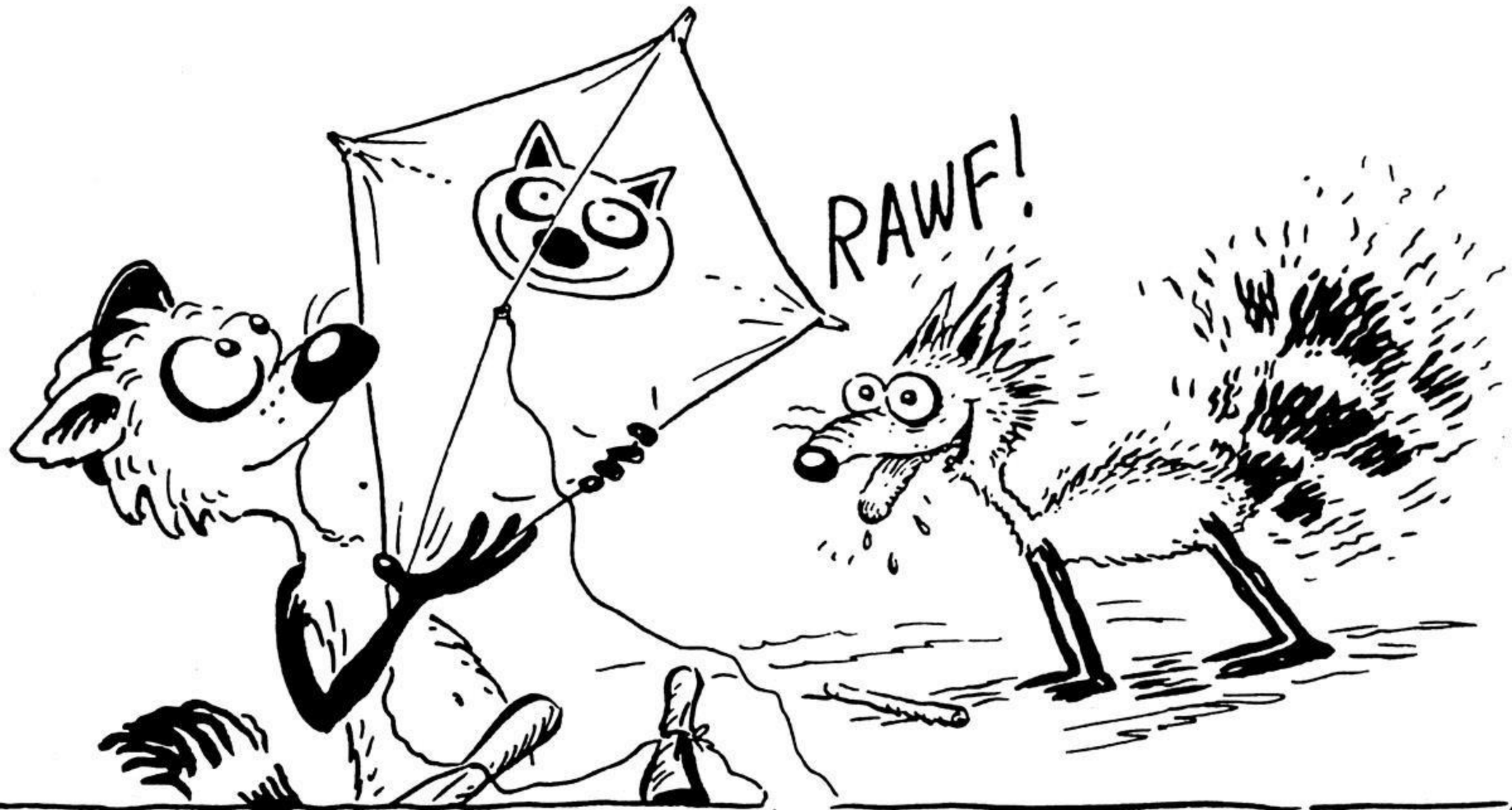


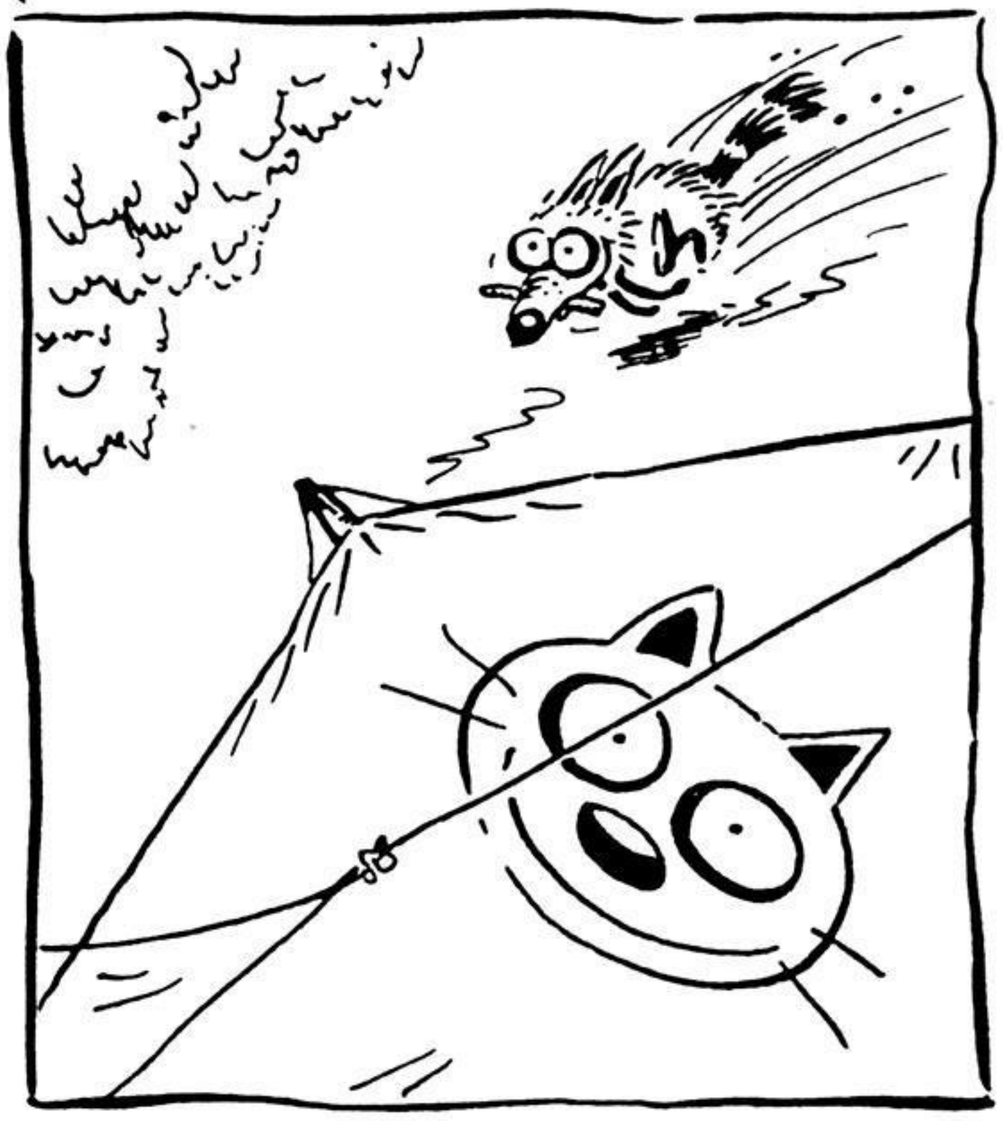


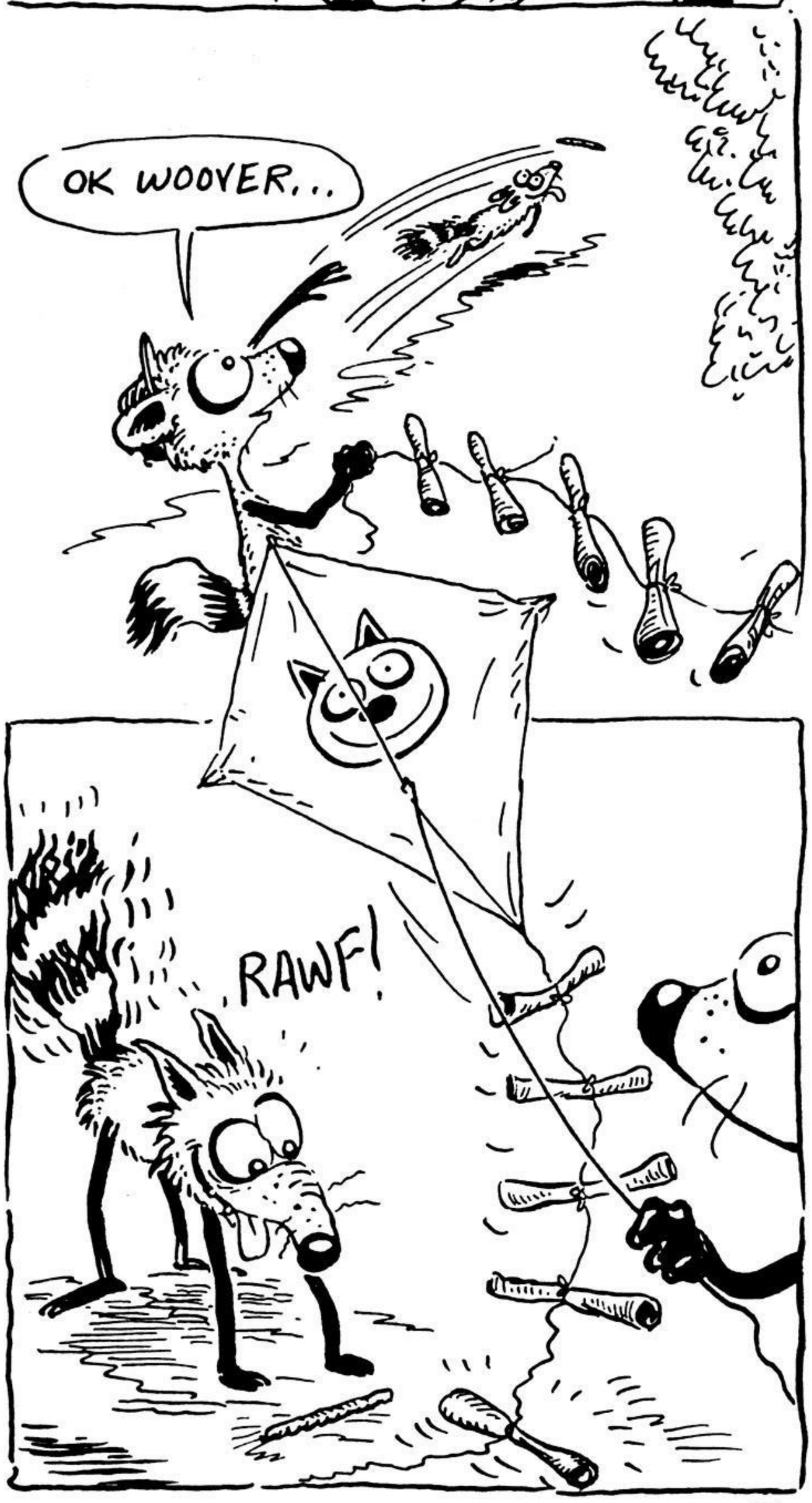



RAWF!
RAWF!

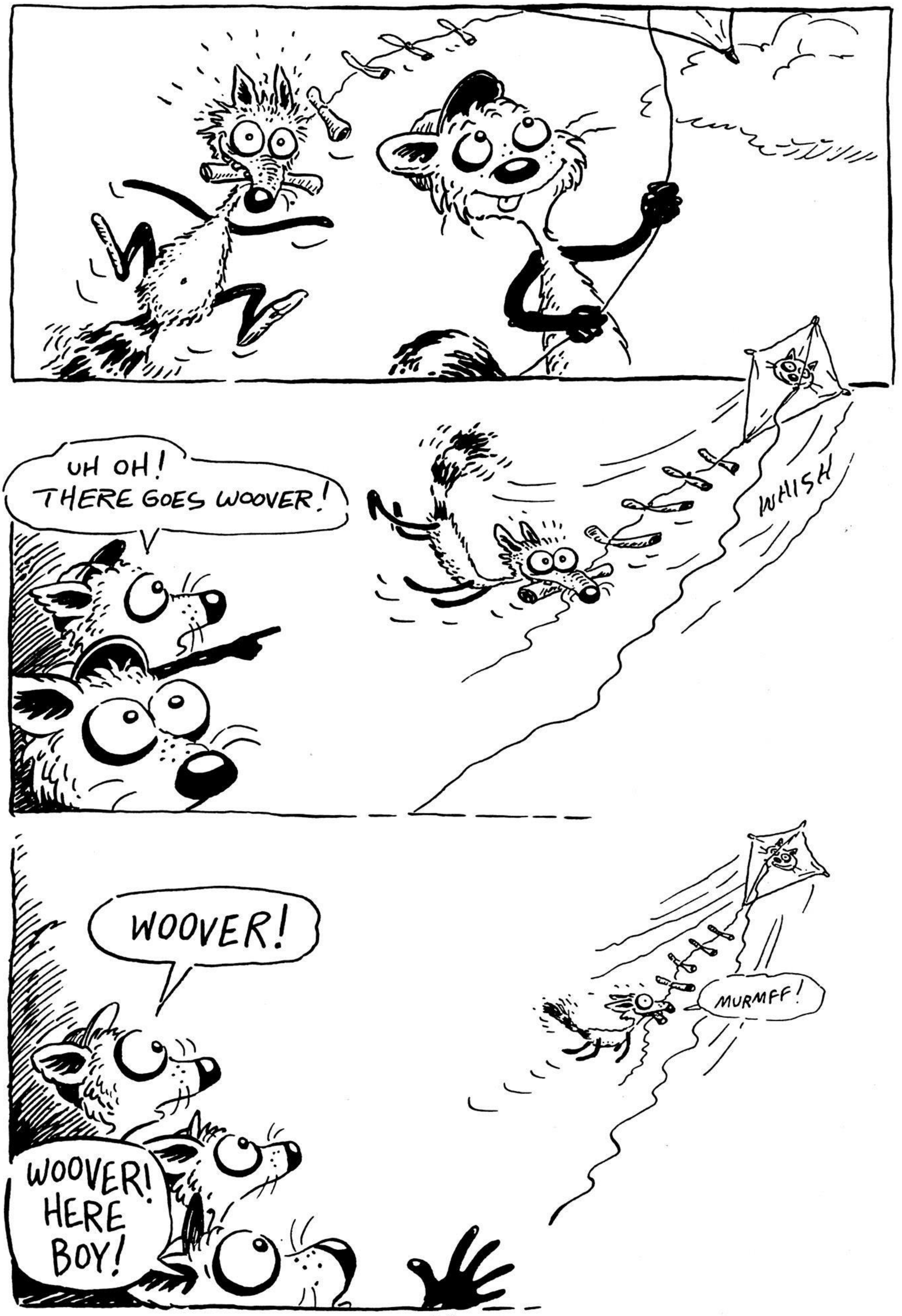


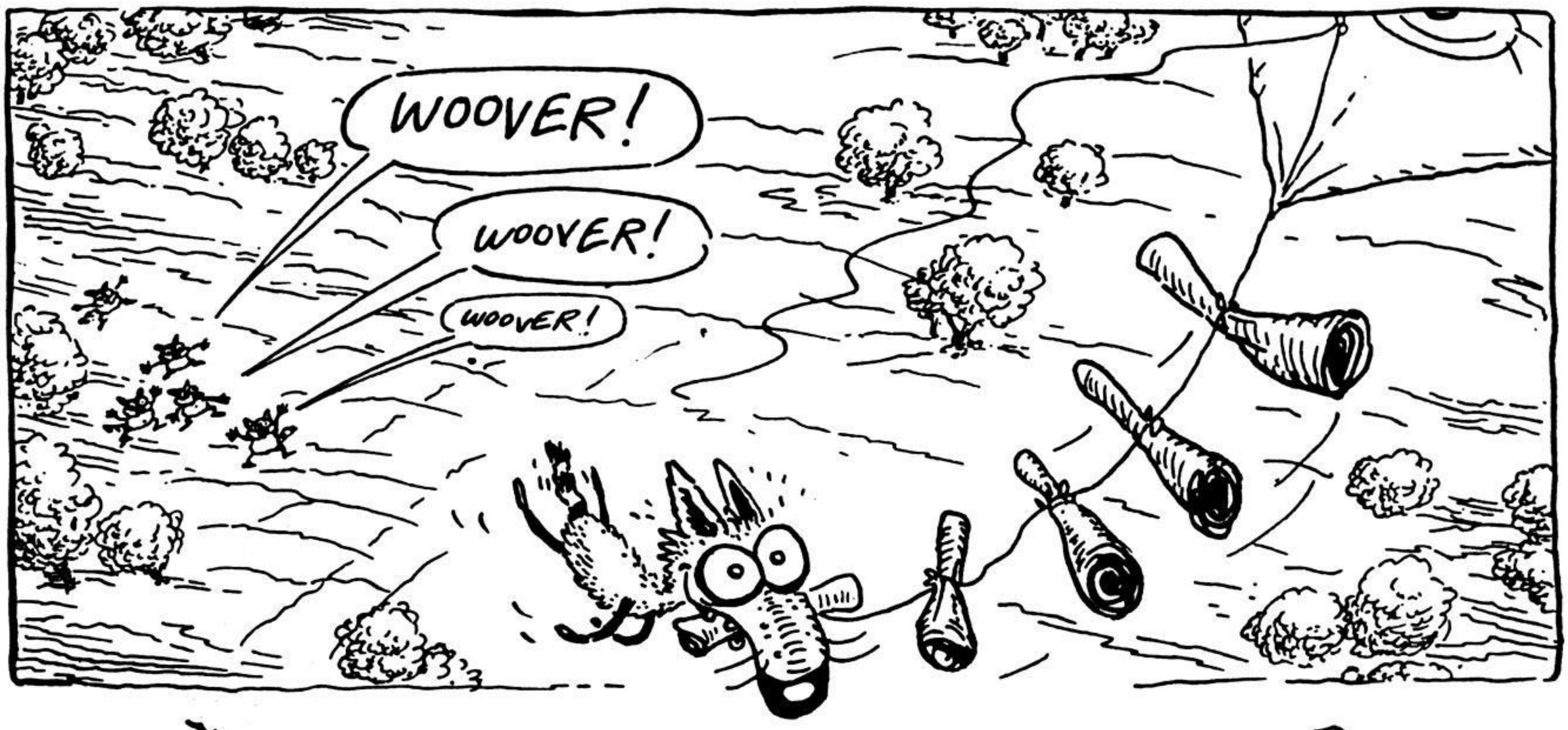

RAWF!

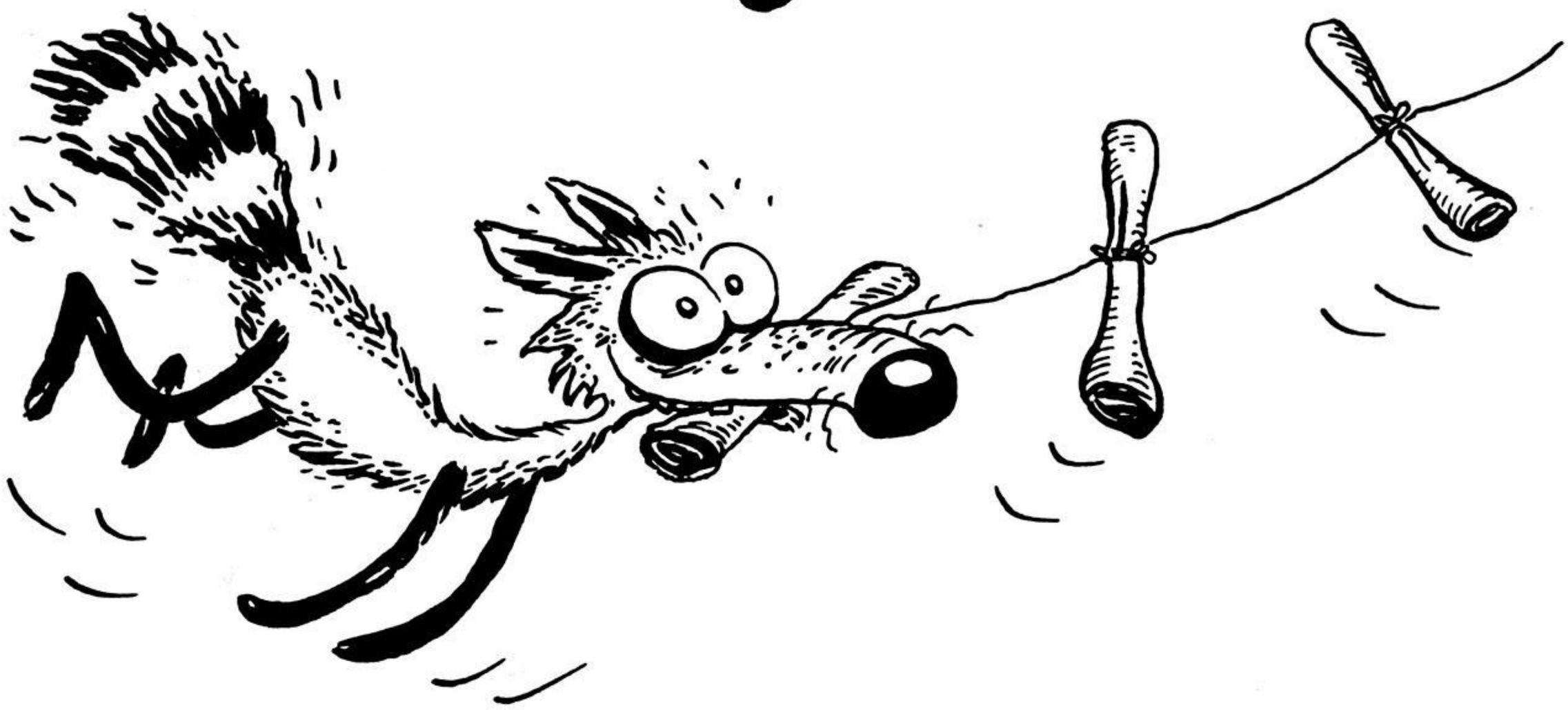


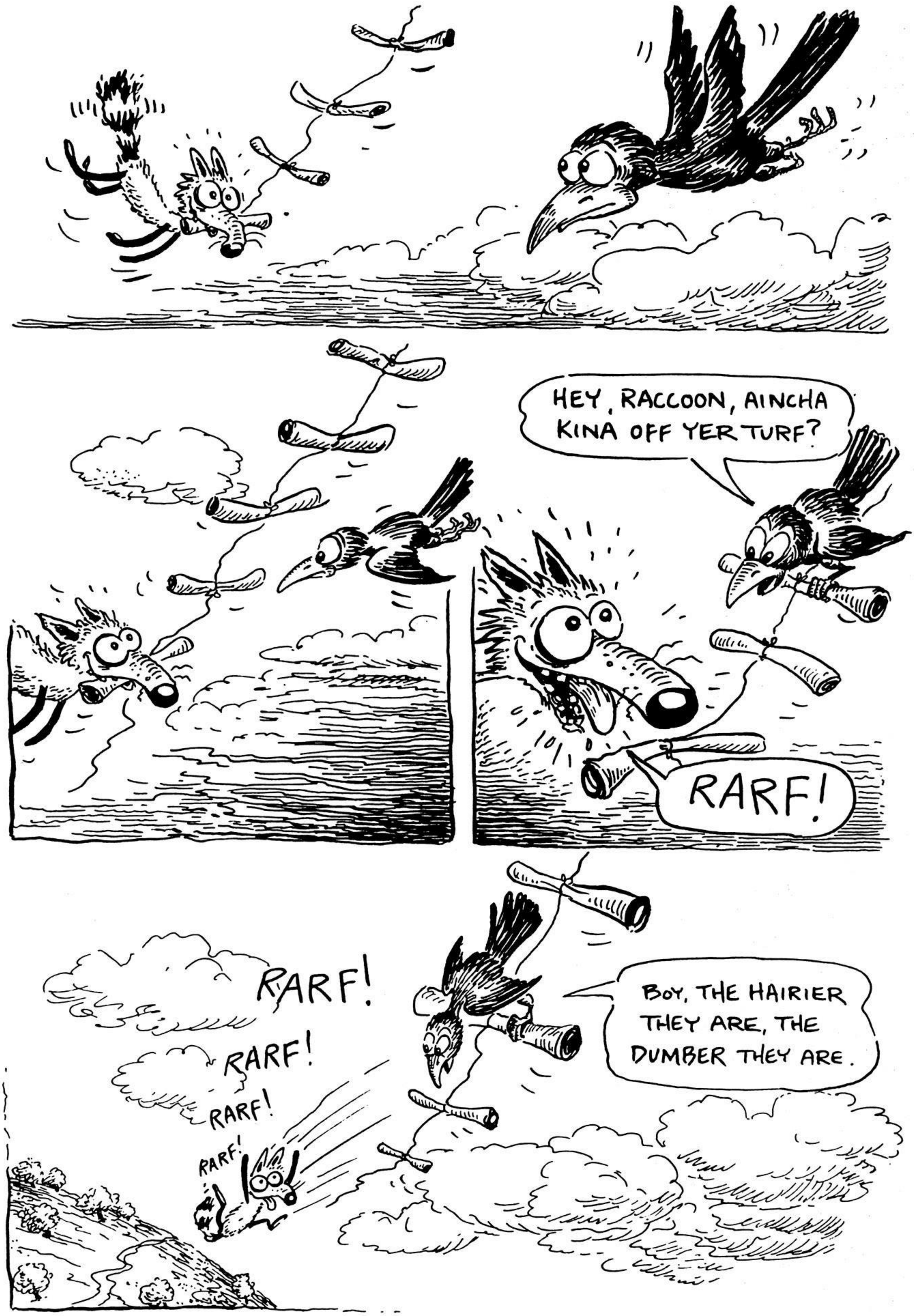

OK WOOVER...
RAWF!

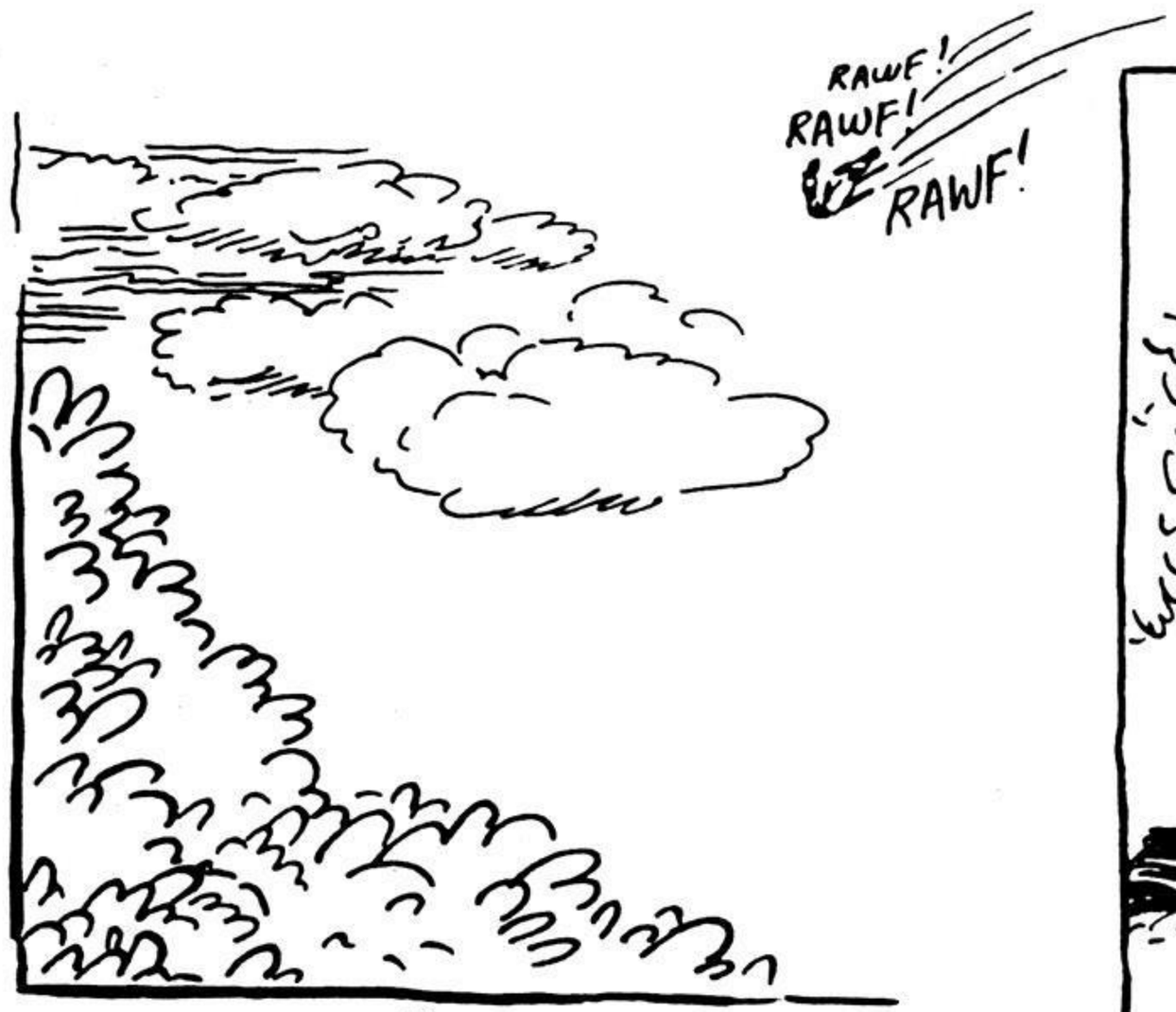
CHOMP!

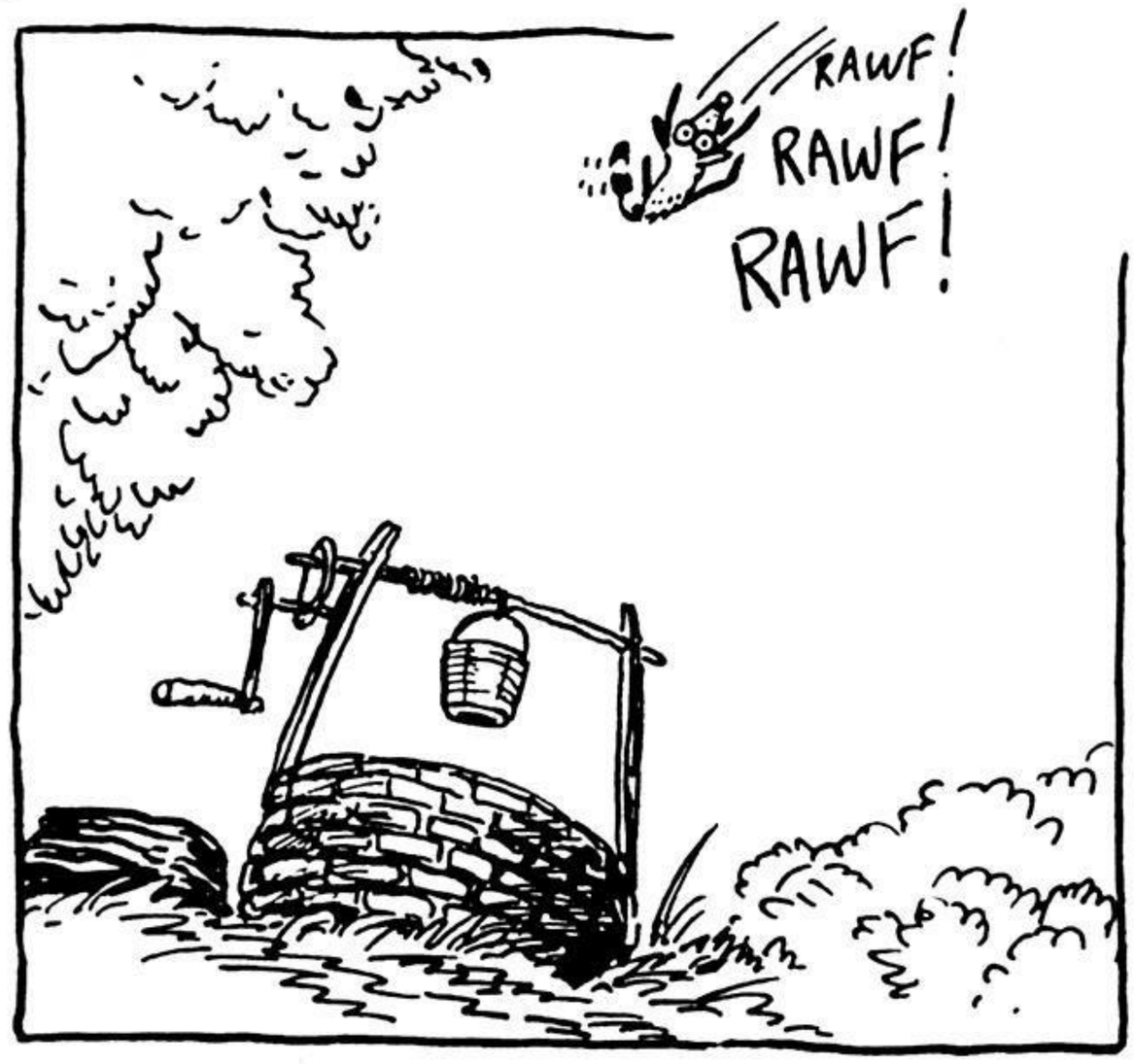

UH OH! THERE GOES WOOVER!
WHISH
WOOVER!
MURMFF!
WOOVER! HERE BOY!

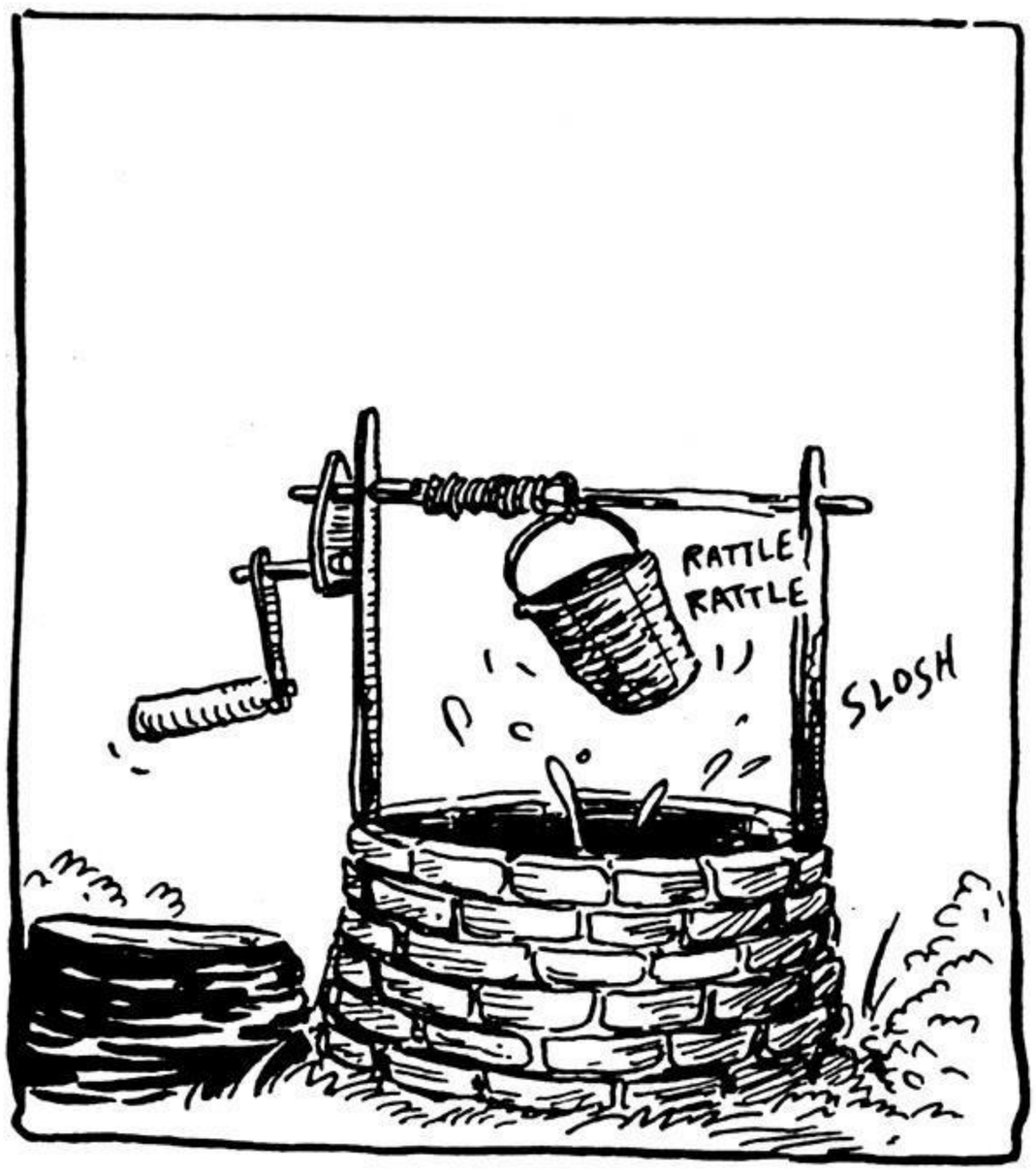

WOOVER!
WOOVER!
WOOVER!

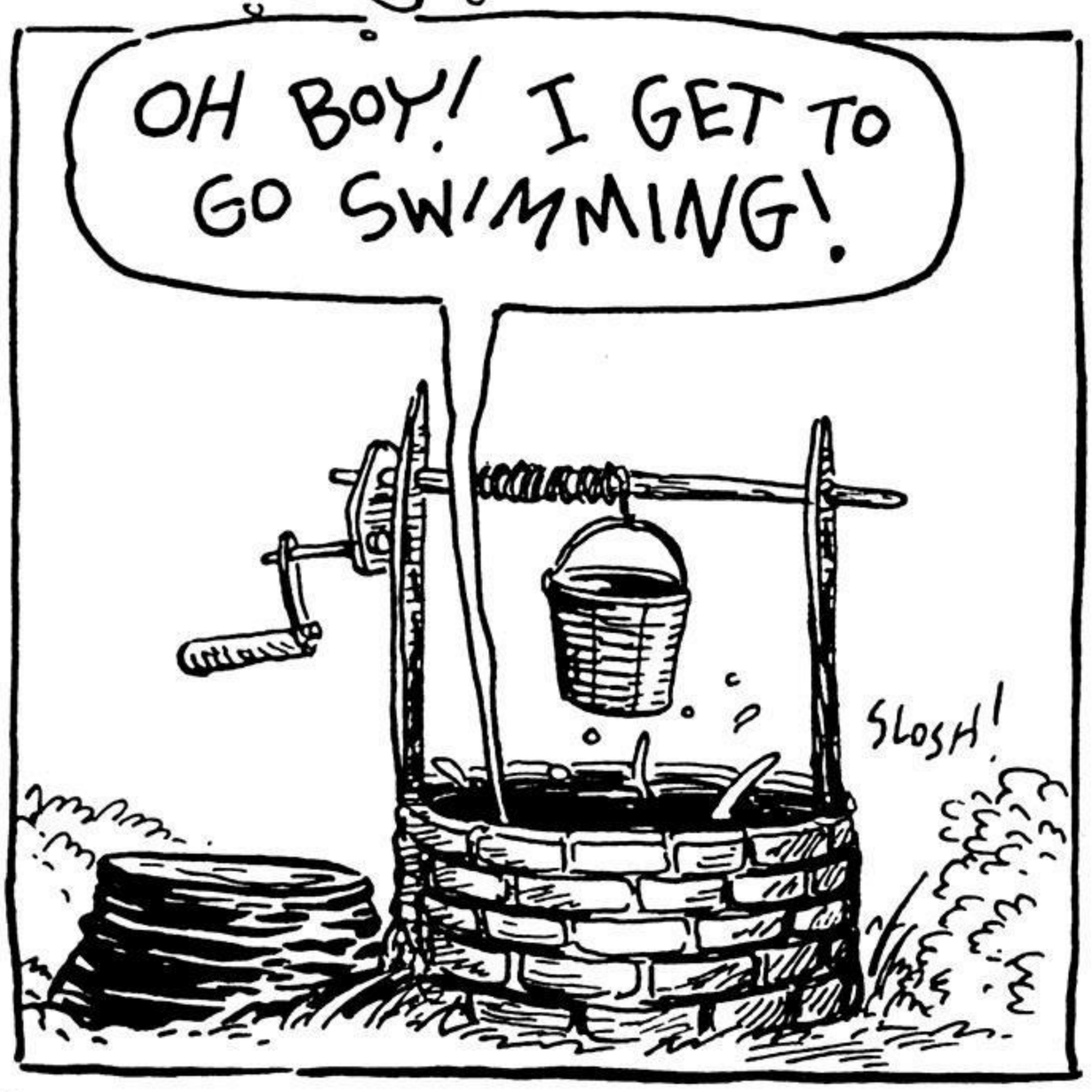



HEY, RACCOON, AINCHA KINA OFF YER TURF?
RARF!
RARF!
RARF!
RARF!
RARF!
BOY, THE HAIRIER THEY ARE, THE DUMBER THEY ARE.


RAWF!
RAWF!
RAWF!

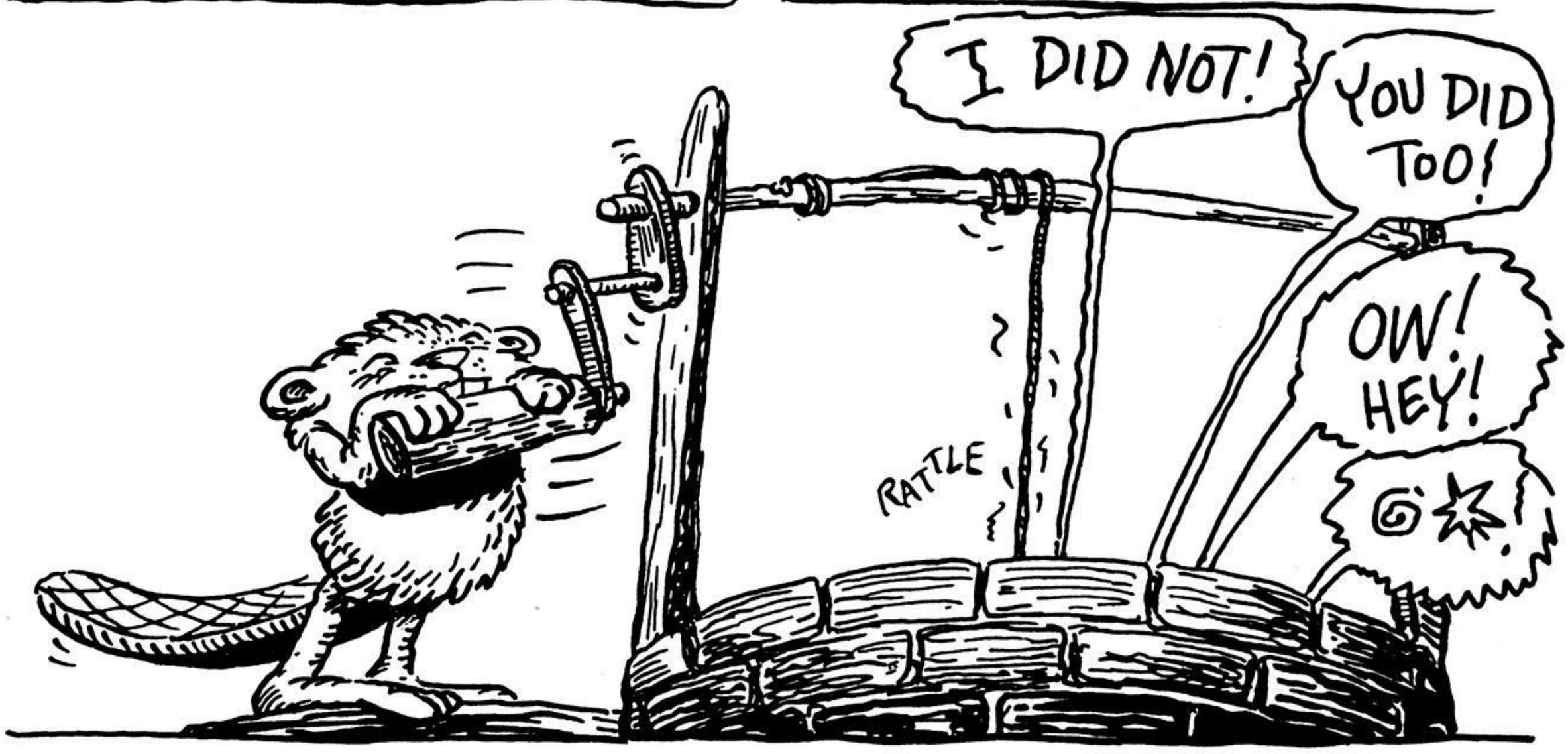

RAWF!
RAWF!
RAWF!

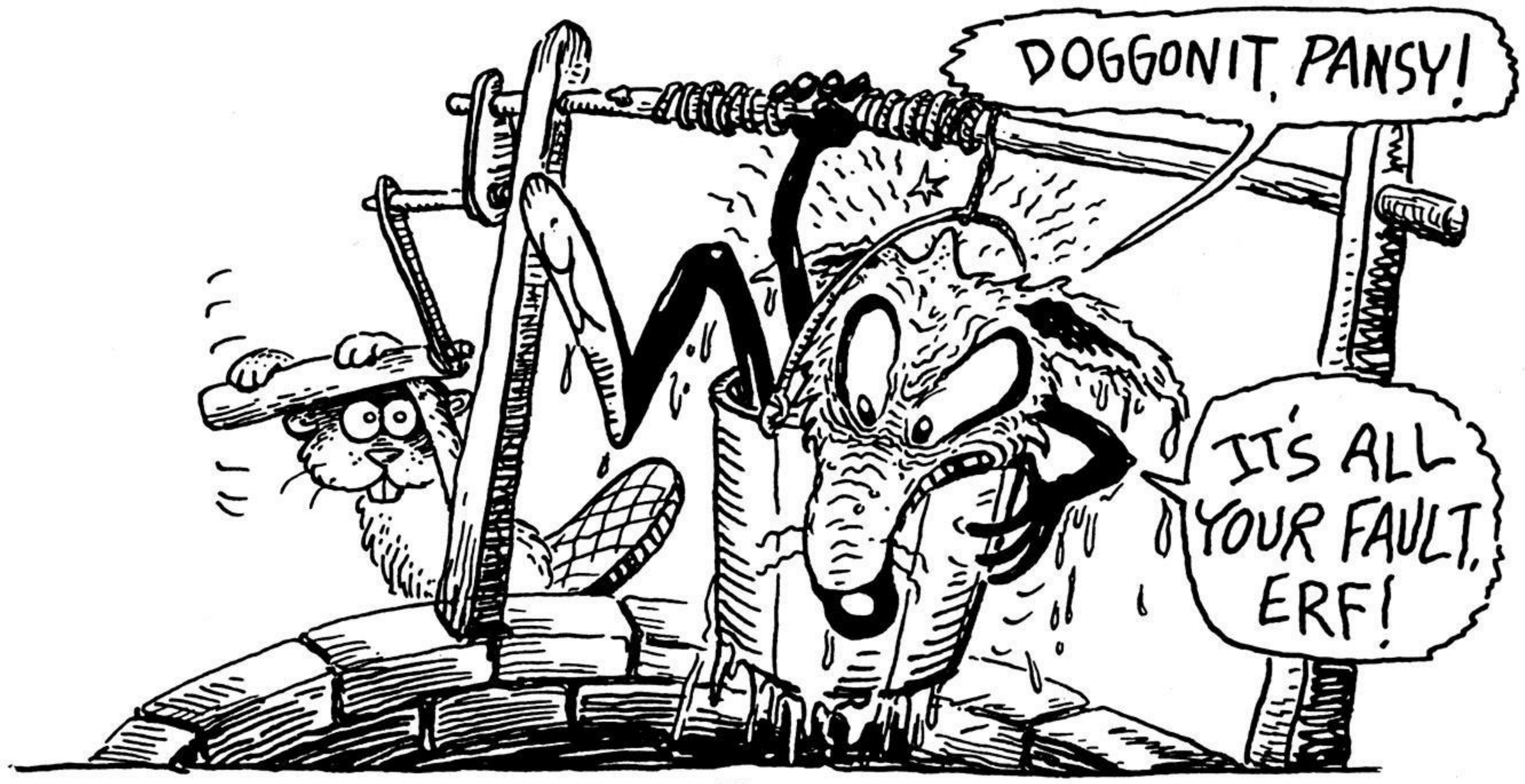

RATTLE
RATTLE
SLOSH


OH BOY! I GET TO GO SWIMMING!
SLOSH!

WHAT THE ☆◎✱!◎! IS THIS??
OH BOY!
ERF, JUST LOOK AT MY HAIR!

GET ME SOME WATER FROM THE WELL, JUNIOR.
OK, MAMA.


I DID NOT!
YOU DID TOO!
OW! HEY!
◎☆!
RATTLE


DOGGONIT, PANSY!
IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT, ERF!

THATS THE LAST STRAW! WE'RE GETTING RID OF THAT DOG!!

WELL, YOU WERE THE ONE WHO STARTED FEEDING HIM!

I WANNA GO SWIMMING SOME MORE!

SLOSH SLOSH

RAWF!

LATER...

WHAT KIND OF SOUP IS THIS?

IT'S YOUR FAVORITE-POTATO PRUNE.

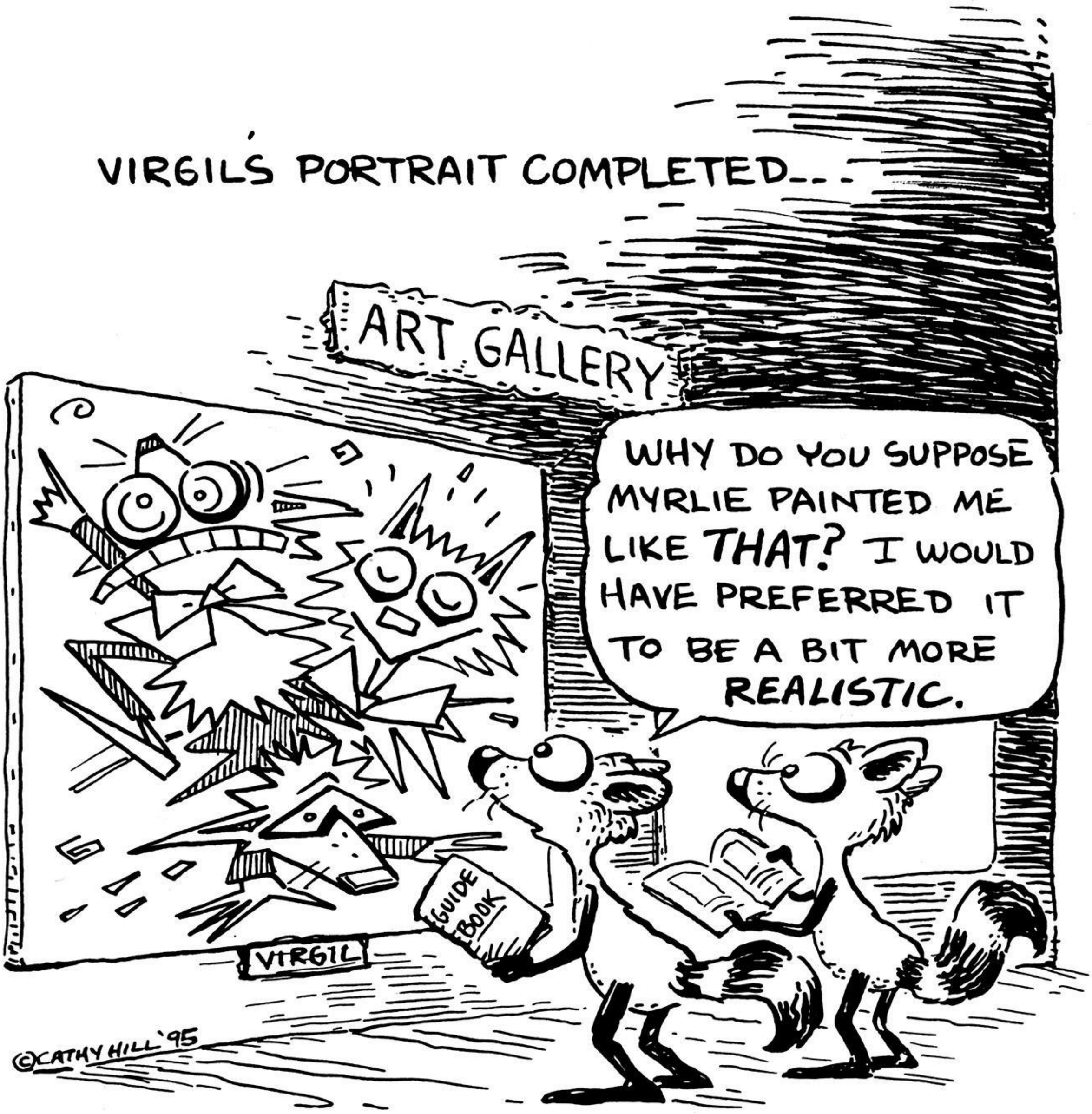
IT TASTES LIKE RACCOONS!

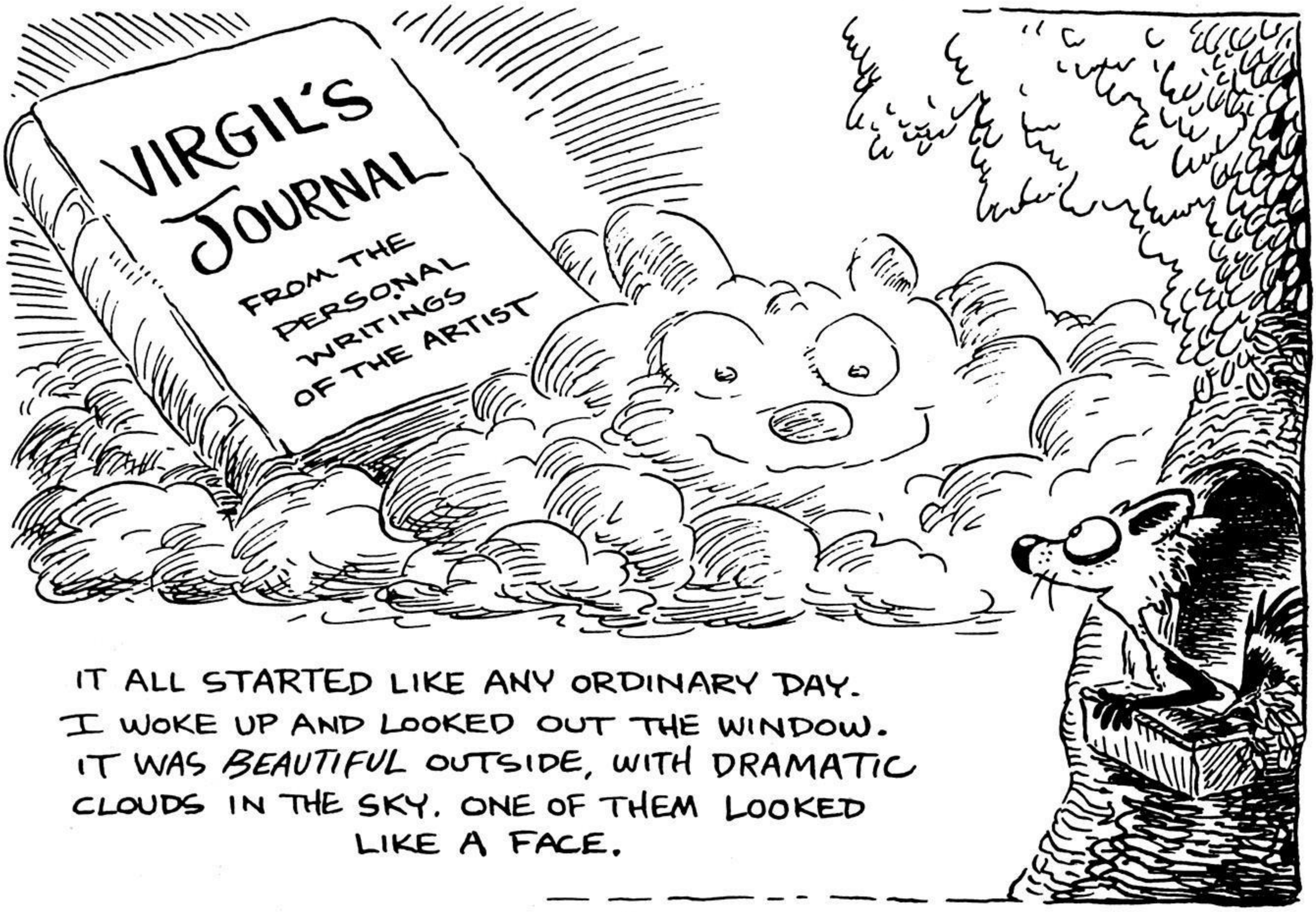
RACCOONS!??

IT TASTES LIKE A WHOLE FAMILY OF RACCOONS WALKED THROUGH IT!!!

NOW.... DEAR...

END


VIRGIL'S PORTRAIT COMPLETED...
ART GALLERY
WHY DO YOU SUPPOSE MYRLIE PAINTED ME LIKE THAT? I WOULD HAVE PREFERRED IT TO BE A BIT MORE REALISTIC.
GUIDE BOOK
VIRGIL
©CATHY HILL '95



IT ALL STARTED LIKE ANY ORDINARY DAY. I WOKE UP AND LOOKED OUT THE WINDOW. IT WAS *BEAUTIFUL* OUTSIDE, WITH DRAMATIC CLOUDS IN THE SKY. ONE OF THEM LOOKED LIKE A FACE.

I DECIDED TO GO FOR A WALK AND ENJOY IT. IN FACT, I THOUGHT I WOULD BRING MY CAMERA ALONG AND TAKE PICTURES.

I DECIDED TO TAKE MY SKETCH-BOOK INSTEAD AND *DRAW* THE CLOUDS, BUT I COULDN'T FIND IT EITHER.

I COULD DO SKETCHES ON DRAWING PAPER BUT I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE THAT WAS...

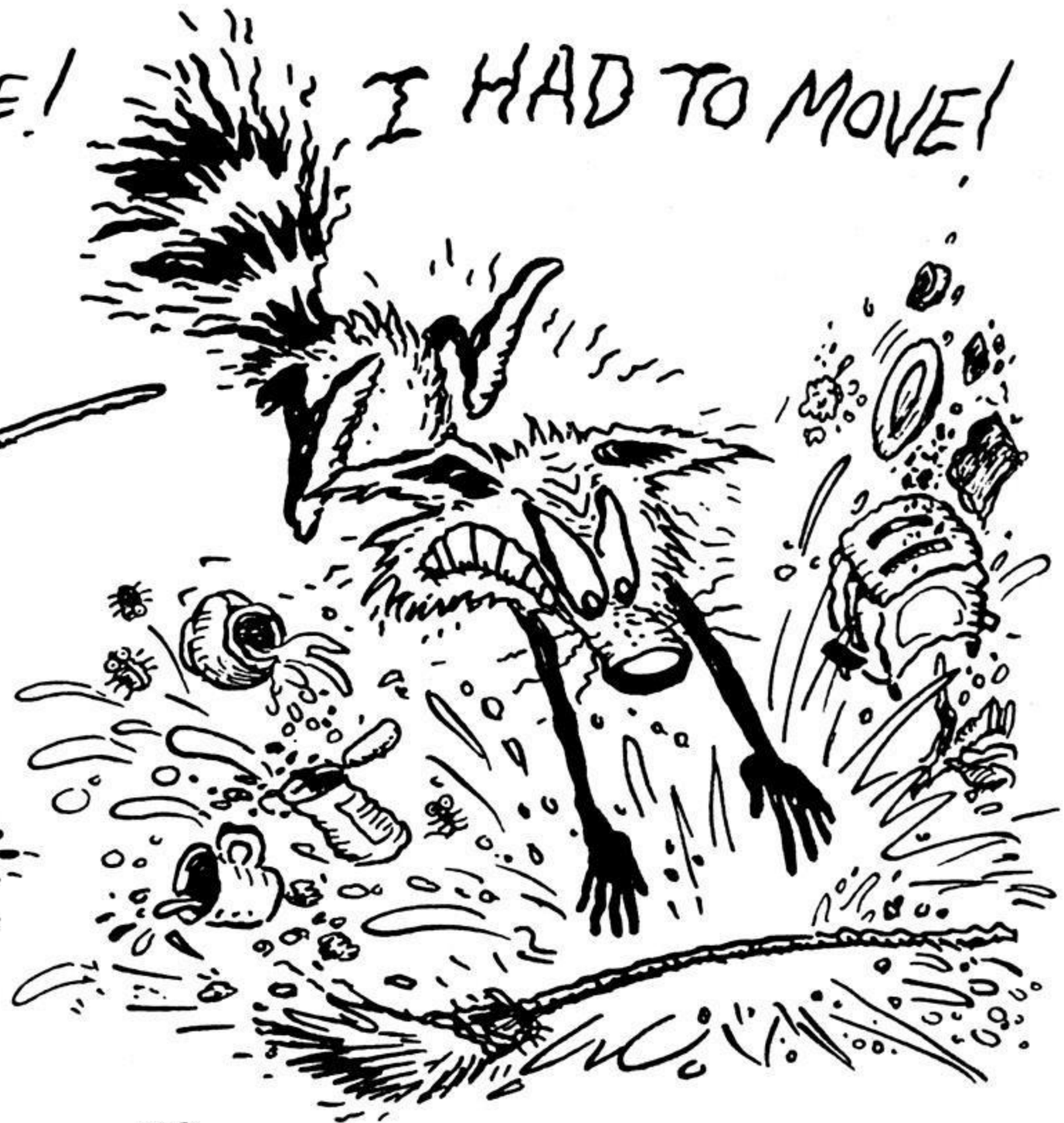
...THE PENCILS WEREN'T WHERE THEY SHOULD BE....

I COULDN'T FIND ANYTHING!

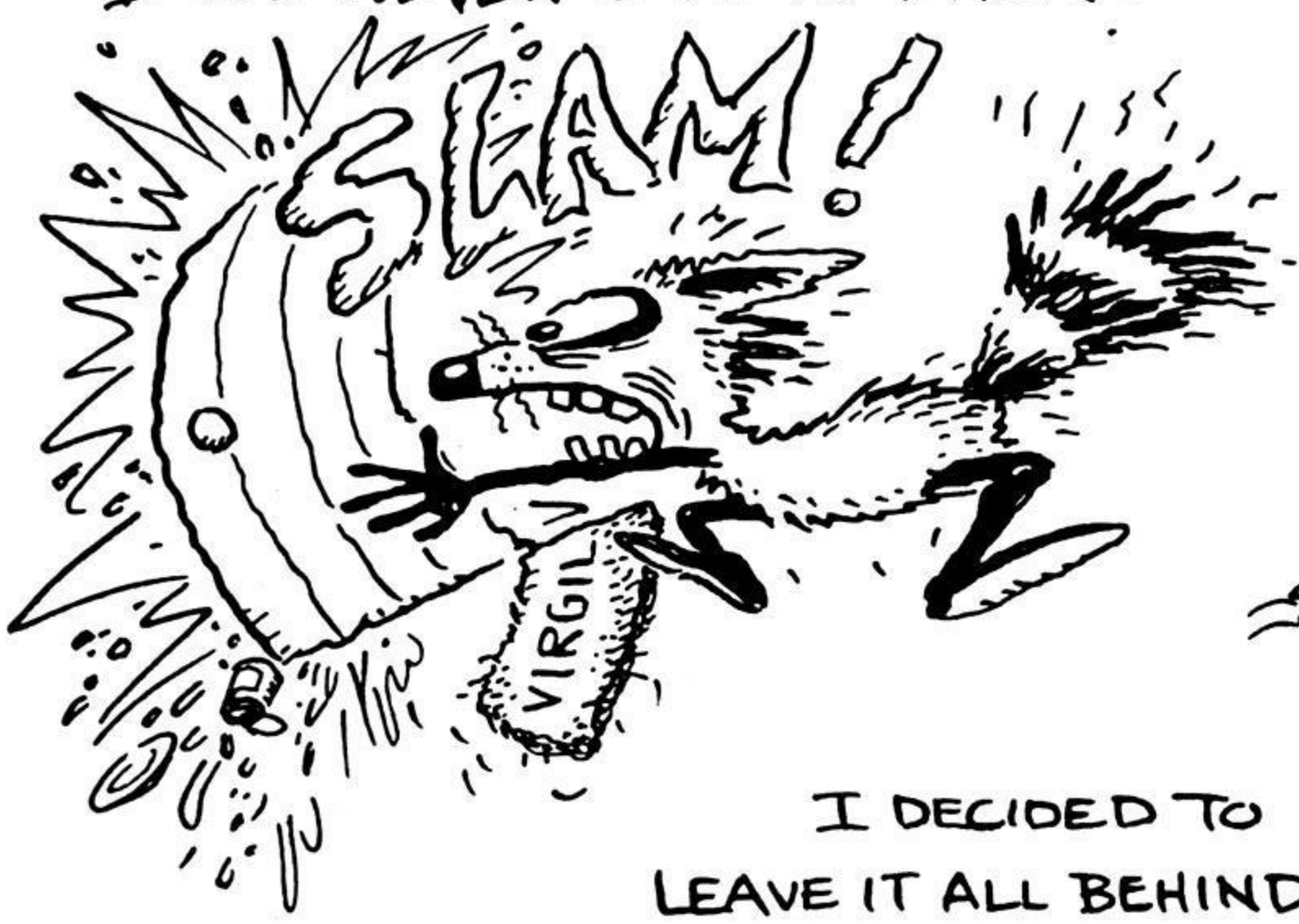
THERE WAS TOO MUCH STUFF! BUT I NEVER COULD DECIDE WHAT TO THROW AWAY!

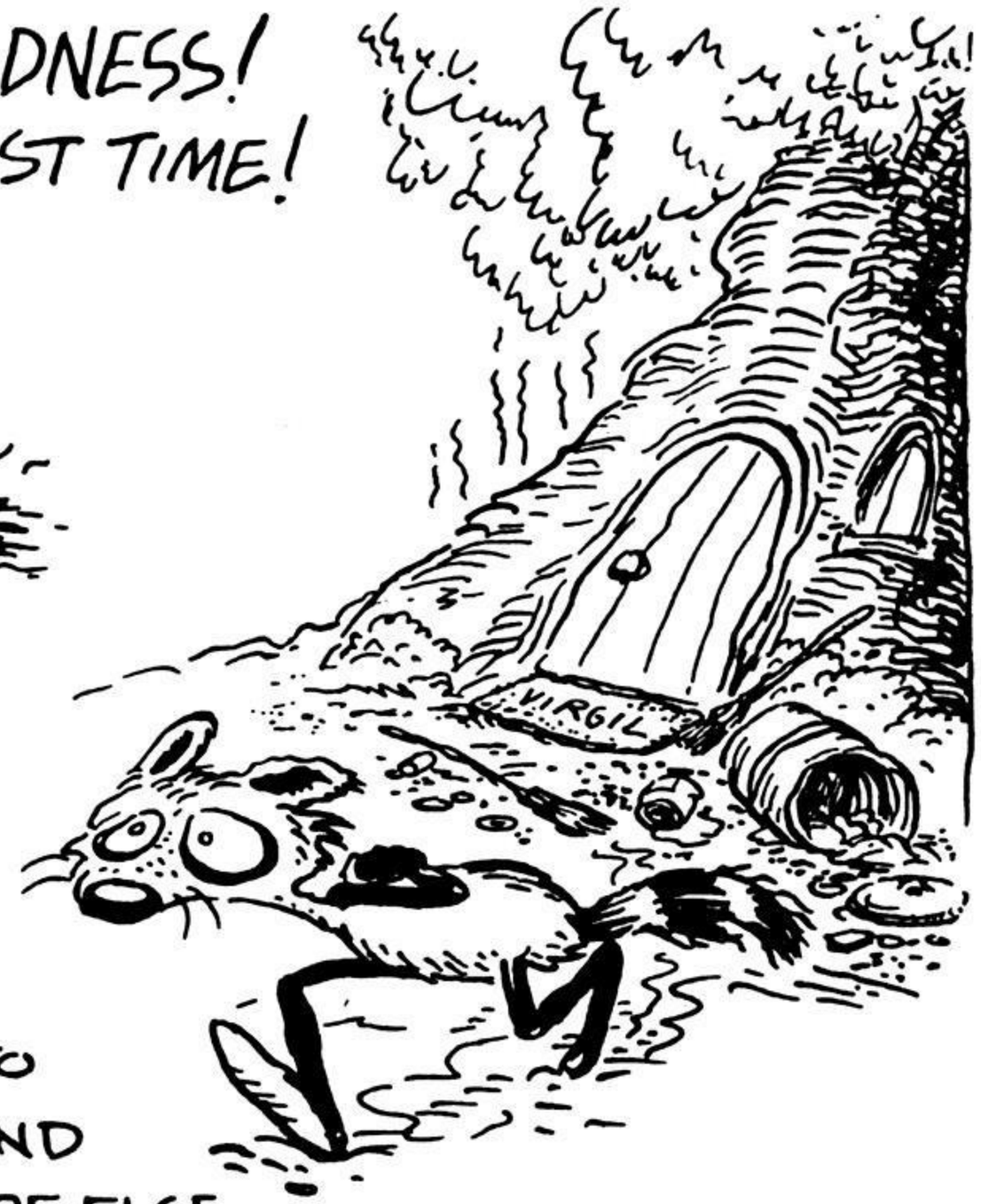
I WAS SICK OF THIS HOUSE! IT WAS HOPELESS!

I HAD TO MOVE!



I HAD TO ESCAPE FROM THIS MAADNESS!
I SLAMMED THE DOOR FOR THE LAST TIME!
I WAS NEVER COMING BACK!





I DECIDED TO
LEAVE IT ALL BEHIND
AND LIVE SOMEWHERE ELSE.
I NEVER WANTED TO SEE IT AGAIN!

I WALKED, LOOKING AT THE BEAUTIFUL CLOUDS,
AND FELT MUCH BETTER...

...EXCEPT... ONE LOOKED
STRANGELY LIKE A MOP AND
BUCKET...

...I COULD HAVE SWORN ONE
LOOKED LIKE A PILE OF
DIRTY DISHES.

AND THEN I SAW.....!
A CASTLE IN THE SKY! WAS IT REAL?
IT WAS FOR SALE!
OPEN HOUSE
THE ROPE WAS REAL! UP I WENT, OF COURSE, TO LOOK AROUND! WHO COULD RESIST A CASTLE IN THE SKY!?

I WAS DAZZLED BY THE INCREDIBLE SIGHT!... A HUGE FORTRESS WITH TOWERS BILLOWED ABOVE MY HEAD!
A REAL ESTATE AGENT RUSHED TOWARDS ME...
HOWJA DOO MR. RACCOON?! BOY, ARE YOU LUCKY! THE CASTLE IS STILL AVAILABLE! I HAD A COUPLE THIS MORNING WHO ALMOST PUT A DOWN PAYMENT ON IT... BUT---
HE USHERED ME IN AND POINTED OUT THE ELABORATE DETAILS...
YEZ! ITS YOU! IT'S YOU FROM STEM TO STERN!

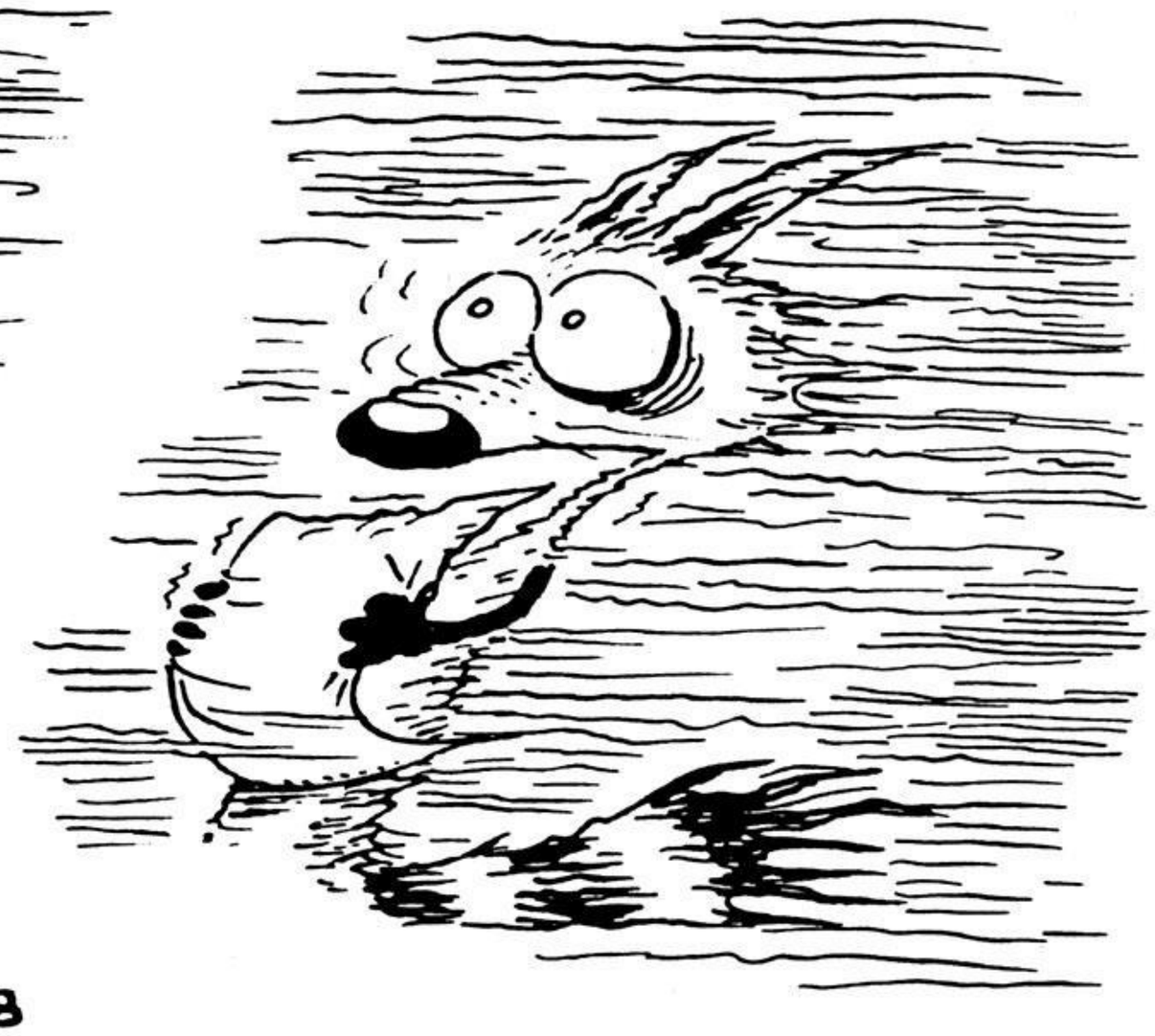
LOOKA THOSE BEAMS IN THE CEILING! LOOKA THAT FIREPLACE! ...THOSE CHANDELIERS!!
LOOKA THIS SOLID OAK STAIRCASE... ..AN 'ALL THIS SPACE! BETCHA COULD USE THAT! IT'S ALREADY BEEN INSPECTED FOR TERMITES AND THINGS
YOU'RE UP IN THE CLOUDS, ABOVE THE RABBLE! AN' LOOK AT THAT VIEW! GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD! YA KNOW, MR. RACCOON, THERE'S JUST THREE THINGS TO REMEMBER IN REAL ESTATE LOCATION! LOCATION! AND LOCATION!
ALL THIS CAN BE YOURS!
MINE? ALL MINE?
YOURS! ALL YOURS!

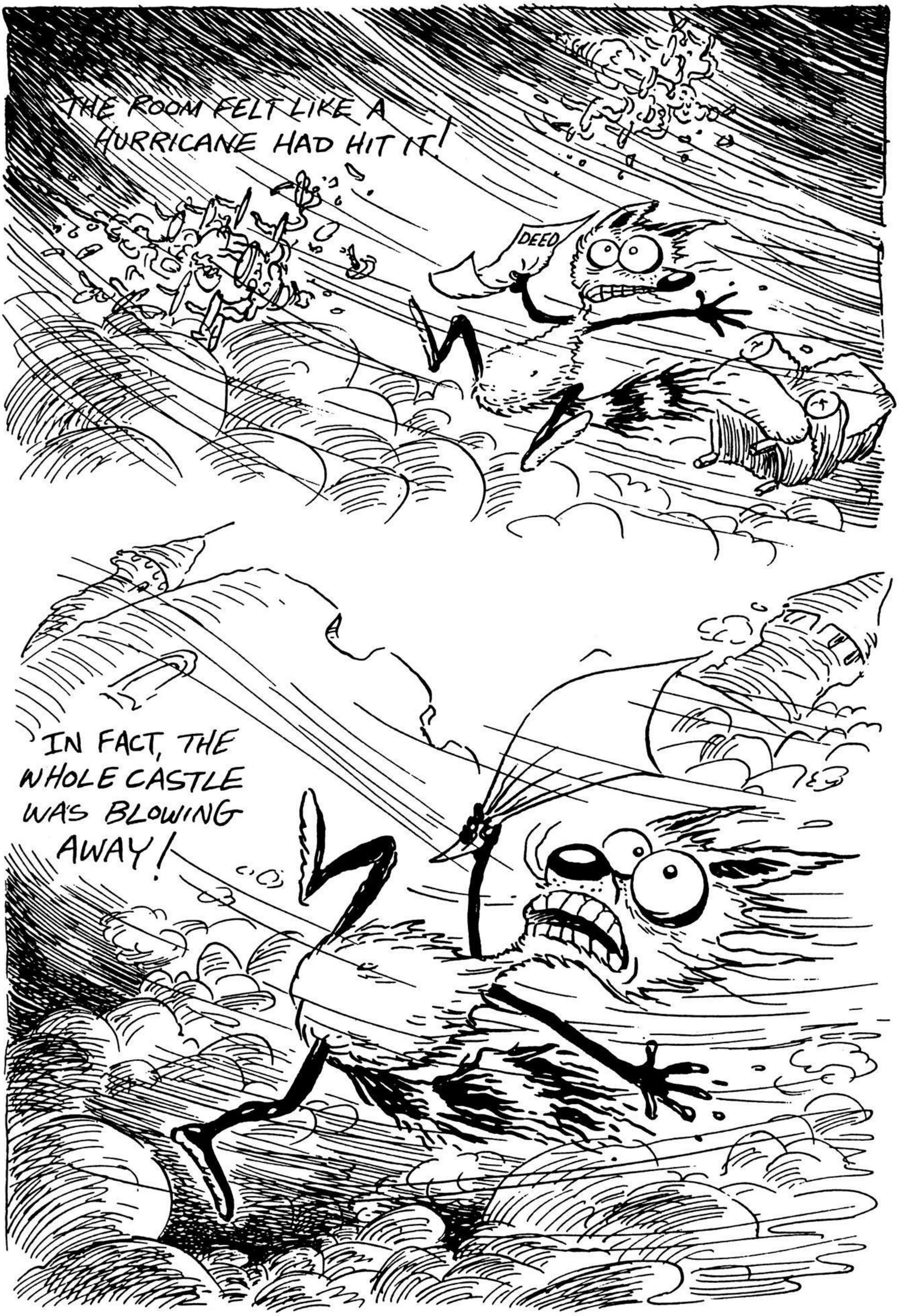
LOOKA HERE, MR. RACCOON, I LIKE YOU! I CAN SEE THAT THIS IS IT FOR YOU! I'M GONNA HELP YOU GET IT! WE CAN BY-PASS THAT PESKY S. CROW, AN' YOU CAN MOVE IN RIGHT NOW!
IT SOUNDED LIKE AN AMAZING OFFER!
S. CROW
I WAS HYPNOTIZED... MY HANDS WERE SIGNING THINGS...
DEED
YES INDEEDY!
GIMMIE YOUR CREDIT CARDS AN' ALL YOUR INVESTMENT DOCUMENTS... THAT'S RIGHT! AN' SIGN HERE, AN' HERE, AN' HERE... AND HERE'S YOUR DEED!!!
CONGRATULATIONS! MR. RACCOON! IT'S YOURS! ALL YOURS!
MINE! ALL MINE!
DEED

I STOOD FROZEN IN MY NEW CASTLE. WHAT HAD I DONE? IT WAS ALL SO SUDDEN... I FELT A COLD CHILL COME OVER ME...

I WAS QUIVERING... I THOUGHT I MUST BE HAVING A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN... BUT THEN ... I REALIZED THAT IT WASN'T A COLD CHILL... IT WAS... THE WIND!...

IT WAS BLOWING... ...HARD!...

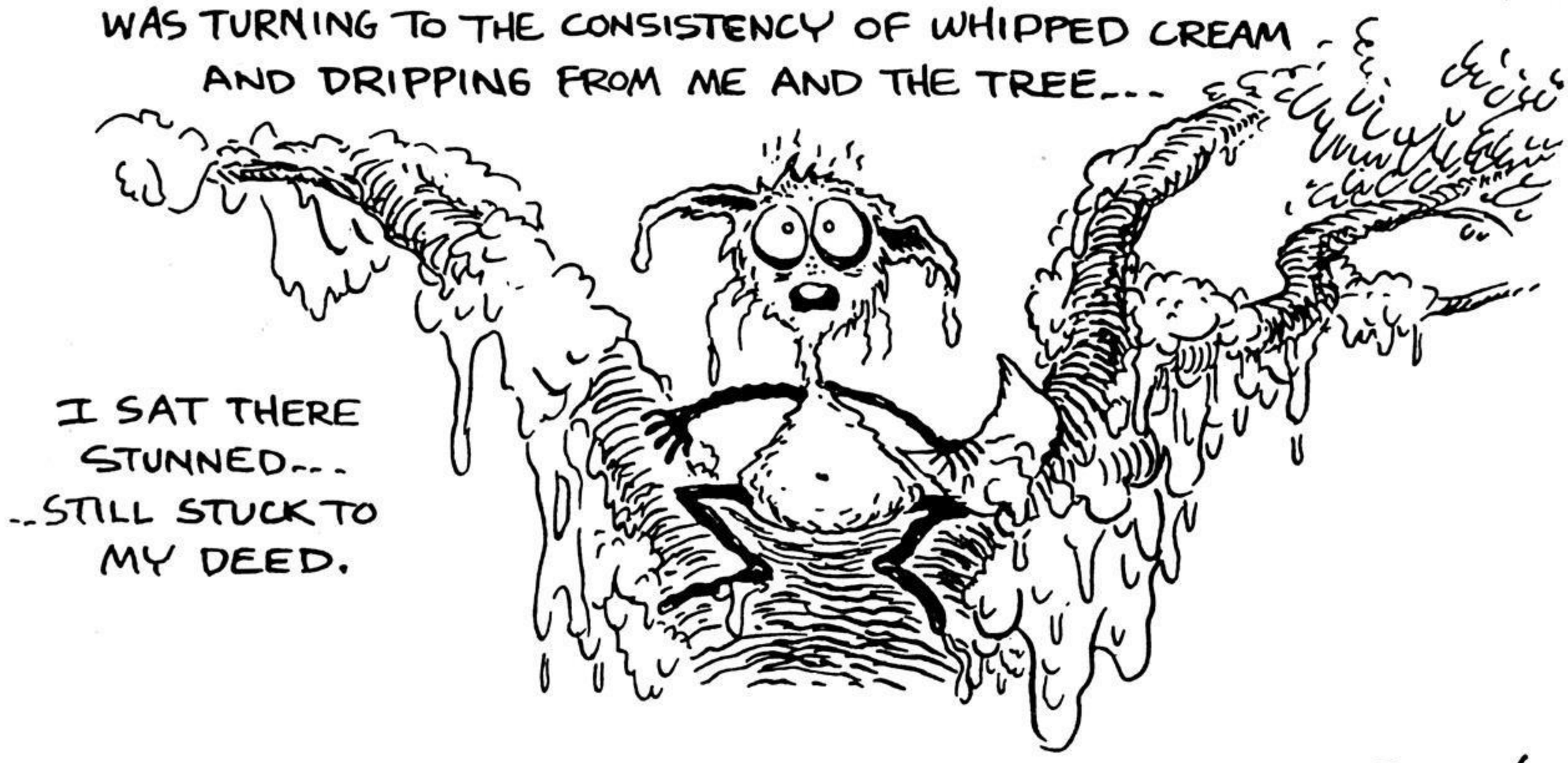



THE ROOM FELT LIKE A HURRICANE HAD HIT IT!
DEED
IN FACT, THE WHOLE CASTLE WAS BLOWING AWAY!

... I CLUTCHED MY DEED FOR DEAR LIFE AND BLEW AWAY WITH IT! ....

... MY CASTLE WAS SCATTERED TO PIECES IN THE WIND!
.. THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT BUT BITS OF CLOUDS...

SUDDENLY, EVERYTHING HIT A TREE AND GOT CAUGHT IN THE BRANCHES!


MY WHOLE CASTLE, ON WHICH I HAD SPENT ALL MY LIFE SAVINGS, WAS TURNING TO THE CONSISTENCY OF WHIPPED CREAM AND DRIPPING FROM ME AND THE TREE...
I SAT THERE STUNNED... ..STILL STUCK TO MY DEED.

I STARED AT IT AND...
ALL OF A SUDDEN, I WAS VERY ANGRY!
DEED

EVERYTHING I HAD WAS GONE! GONE WITH THE WIND! EVERYTHING BUT THIS USELESS DEED!
I TORE IT TO SHREDS IN FURY!

BUT THE PIECES REFORMED AND DANCED ABOVE MY HEAD, DRIPPING AND CHANTING, "ONE GOOD DEED DESERVES ANOTHER!"

ONE GOOD DEED DESERVES ANOTHER!

THIS WAS TOO MUCH!! MOCKED BY A BUNCH OF DIRTY LITTLE DEEDS! WHAT HAD I DONE TO DESERVE THIS???

ONE GOOD DEED...

THEY BLEW AWAY IN THE WIND... STILL CHANTING....

I STARTED TO CLIMB DOWN FROM THE TREE... A BEATEN SOUL... SWINDLED, DEGRADATED AND RIDICULED...

SUDDENLY... I REALIZED THAT IT WAS MY TREE AND MY TREE HOUSE!!

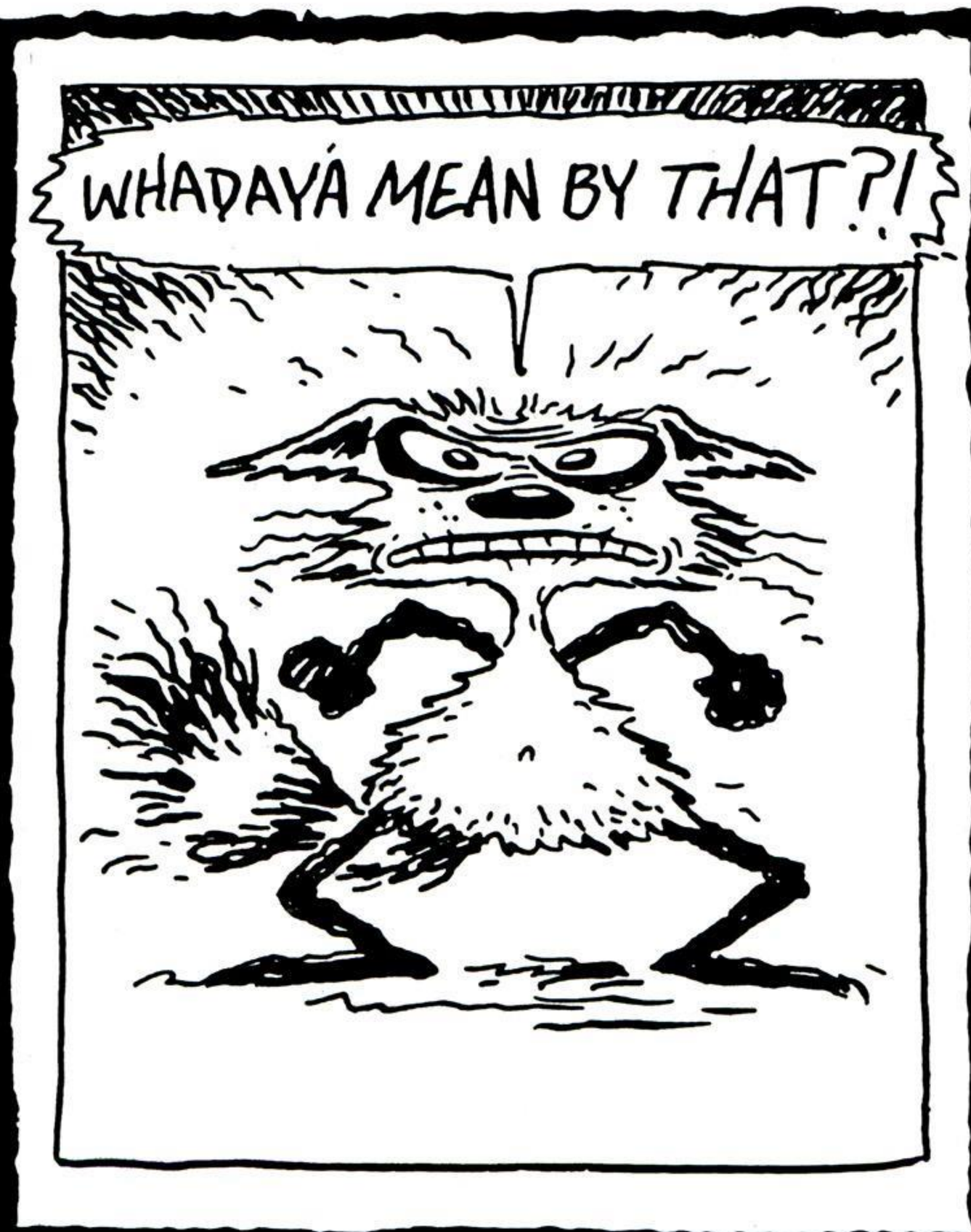
I STILL HAD MY RATTY OLD HOUSE... MY OLD JUNK... MY OLD GARBAGE... MY OWN OLD MESS!

NOSTALGIA OVERWHELMED ME.....

HOWEVER, I SNAPPED OUT OF IT!

I DECIDED THAT POSSESSIONS WERE JUST A TRAP!

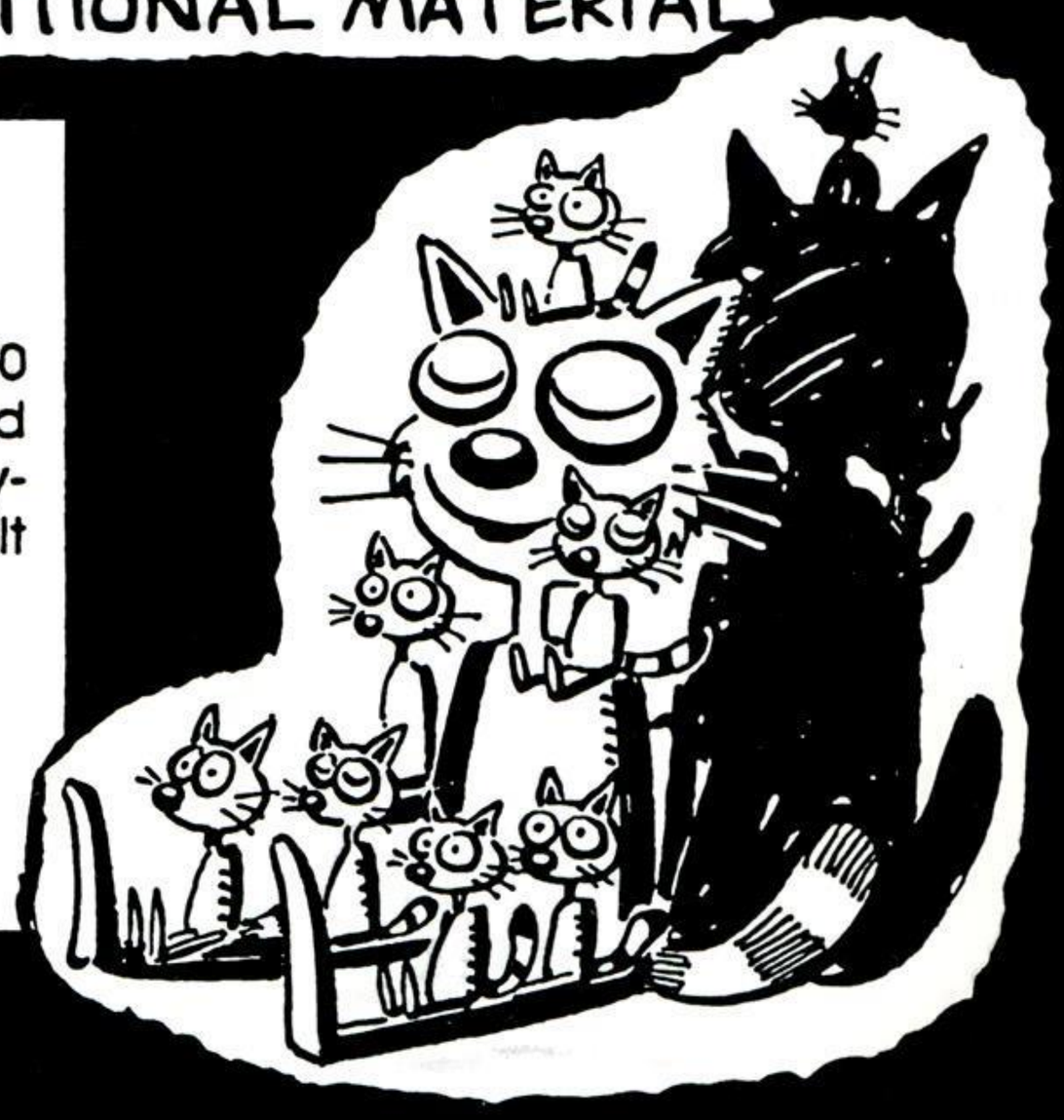
I HAD LEARNED MY LESSON. I CLEANED UP THE PLACE AND GOT RID OF IT ALL!



ISSUES 1-4 PLUS ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

MAD RACCOONS COLLECTION
$14.95 ($21.00 Can)

Add 75 cents for first item ordered, and 50 cents for each additional item for postage and shipping; make check or money order payable to MU Press; and send to 5014-D Roosevelt Way NE, Seattle, WA 98105.

Available in July, 1995

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____